



Jairam Ramesh too responsible for UPA-2's policy paralysis: Moily

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Assam officials bring out online guide to check names in NRC list

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26 killed, 11 injured in arson attack on bar in southern Mexico

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Rublev knocks out Tsitsipas; Fabbiano stuns Thiem

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NEARBY



Metro commuter can now carry heavier bag

NEW DELHI Passengers on Metro trains can carry one bag up to 25 kg in weight, not be more than 80cm in length, 50cm in breadth and 30cm in height, up from the earlier limit of 15 kg, according to rules notified by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday. The Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2019, also put in place a rule against "bundles" as baggage.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Candidates for JNUSU election declared

NEW DELHI Candidates for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union election, to be held on September 6, were declared on Wednesday. The Students' Federation of India, All India Students' Association, All India Students' Federation and the Democratic Students' Federation have joined hands to form a United Left panel to take on the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

YASH 2020 UPSC 2020 Prelims Orientation Batch Starting from 4th October

Chanakya Mandal Parivar, ORN, New Delhi

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Age of third-degree torture over, Shah tells police officials

Home Minister gives call for a robust forensic set-up

VIIJA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The age of third-degree torture was over and the police should stay a step ahead of crime and "criminal-minded people" through better investigation and forensic evidence, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the 50th foundation day of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), a think-tank under the Minis-



try of Home Affairs.

Mr. Shah said old police concepts should be revived for investigation and mere "reliance on phone tapping"

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Cabinet eases rules for FDI in retail, media

Local sourcing norms for single brand retail diluted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday announced a number of decisions designed to attract increased foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country, including easing local sourcing norms for single-brand retail companies.

Currently, the FDI policy says that a single-brand retail company with more than 51% FDI needs to source 30% of its goods from within India. The new decision says that this 30% can be calculated over the first five years of operation.

Further, sourcing for exports will also count towards the local sourcing re-

Subsidy for sugar exports

With record sugar production continuing to drive down prices, the Centre has decided to offer a ₹10.45 per kg subsidy to incentivise mills to export their surplus stocks.

Requirement, the government said. The government also updated the FDI policy in keeping with prevalent business practices, it said.

"With a view to provide greater flexibility and ease of operations to SBRT (single brand retail trade) entities, it has been decided that

all procurements made from India by the SBRT entity for that single brand shall be counted towards local sourcing, irrespective of whether the goods procured are sold in India or exported," the government said in a release.

The current FDI policy provides for 100% FDI under the automatic route in the manufacturing sector. There was no specific provision for contract manufacturing in the policy.

It has now decided to allow 100% FDI under the automatic route in contract manufacturing in India as well.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Annual journey



Workers shifting a Ganesh idol that arrived from Nagpur at the M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station in Chennai. Pandals have sprung up across the country for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival on September 2. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

Johnson suspends Parliament till Oct. 14

Anti-Brexit MPs condemn move

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Wednesday that the suspension of British Parliament would be extended until October 14 – just two weeks before the U.K. is set to leave the EU – sparking outrage among anti-Brexit MPs.

MPs will return to London later than in recent years, giving pro-EU lawmakers less time than expected to thwart Mr. Johnson's Brexit plans before Britain is due to leave the EU on October 31.

"We're going to do it on October 14," Mr. Johnson told reporters. He is due to attend one last EU summit three days later. "There will be ample time on both sides of that crucial October 17 summit, ample time in

Parliament for MPs to debate," Mr. Johnson said.

The move enraged opposition MPs involved in trying to stop Brexit. Tom Watson, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, said, "This action is an utterly scandalous affront to our democracy. We cannot let this happen."

OPOSITION UPSET ▶ PAGE 14

Boris Johnson

Workers shifting a Ganesh idol that arrived from Nagpur at the M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station in Chennai. Pandals have sprung up across the country for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival on September 2. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

In Shivpuri, one birthday to link them all

With no documents to prove their age, Kakra residents get January 1 as default date on Aadhaar card

SIDHARTH YADAV
SHIVPURI

"I think I am 30," says Kallo Adiwas who, according to her crisp Aadhaar card, is 39, and going by her tattered black-and-white voter ID, 49.

But there's one thing that this member of the vulnerable Saharia tribe shares with other residents of Kakra village in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district: the date and the month of birth mentioned on the Aadhaar card – January 1.

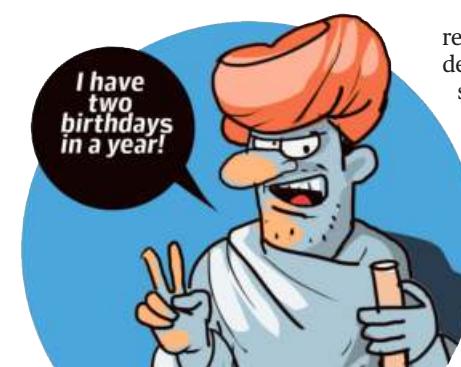
Young or old, male or female, in fact, anyone without a proof of date of birth has been shown to be born on January 1.

"I like to tell people I am 25 in order to seem younger," says Ashok

Adiwas, born on January 1, 1985, as per his card. "We don't have a system of recording birthdays. I don't even know when I was born. How does it matter anyway? We don't celebrate birthdays."

Jagaram, Maho, Puran, Asarapi, Radha and Jasodi and several other villagers share the same birthday. Even Ajuddi Adiwas, purportedly 84, shares his birthday with Kallon Adiwas, now four.

According to the policy of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI),



tasted with enrolling citizens under the programme, if an individual is unable to produce a proof of birth at the time of

registration, they can declare it without supporting documents. In case they don't remember the date, merely stating the age will do.

Official's decision In 2016, at Jakhan village, when it was Ramadullhari Adiwas's turn at a registration camp, she was left stammering when she was asked her age.

"The official scanned me from top to bottom and declared that I was 39," she says, flashing her card that shows January 1, 1977, as her date of birth.

Back in Kakra, Uday Singh Adiwas's date of birth on his

Aadhaar card is January 1, 2004, which makes him 15. Yet, he holds a voter identity card which gives his birth year as 2000. When asked about the discrepancy, he says, "Wait, I'll get my other Aadhaar card. It has yet another date of birth."

In 2017, news reports claimed that nearly all residents of a tribal-dominated village in Hardwar in Uttarakhand were born on January 1 as per their Aadhaar cards. The UIDAI had clarified that as per its policy, if a person was only able to declare his or her age during enrolment, the system by default takes January 1 of that year as the date of birth.

Back in Kakra, Uday Singh Adiwas's date of birth on his Aadhaar card is January 1, 2004, which makes him 15. Yet, he holds a voter identity card which gives his birth year as 2000. When asked about the discrepancy, he says, "Wait, I'll get my other Aadhaar card. It has yet another date of birth."

In 2017, news reports claimed that nearly all residents of a tribal-dominated village in Hardwar in Uttarakhand were born on January 1 as per their Aadhaar cards. The UIDAI had clarified that as per its policy, if a person was only able to declare his or her age during enrolment, the system by default takes January 1 of that year as the date of birth.

1 killed, another injured in U.P. mob attack on child-lifting suspicion

They were thrashed while taking their nephew to hospital

ANUJ KUMAR
GAZIABAD

A man was killed and another seriously injured by a mob in a village in Sambhal when it mistook the two for child-lifters on Tuesday.

Raju and Ramavtar, from Chhabra village of Chandauli in Sambhal district, were taking their nephew Ravi for treatment on a motorbike to a hospital when a group of men in Jarai village attacked them.

Local sources said the child was crying because of stomach pain and the unidentified men, agitated by social media posts about the presence of alleged child-lifters in the area, mistook the

uncles as culprits. They were mercilessly beaten by sticks by a mob that gradually swelled to around 300 people. By the time the police reached, the two brothers had lost consciousness. Mr. Raju passed away on the way to hospital while Mr. Ramavtar's condition remains grave.

Yamuna Prasad, Superintendent of Police, Sambhal, told *The Hindu*, "Based on video evidence collected from the spot, four persons have been arrested under charges of murder and rioting and an FIR has been registered against 14 more for rioting. We will arrest them soon. Ramavtar is stable."

He appealed to locals not to believe in rumours being spread through social media.

20 cases in two weeks

In the past two weeks, at least 20 cases have emerged from western U.P. of rumours of 'bachcha chor' (child-lifters) leading to mob attacks. Five women from Gujarat were thrashed by a mob on suspicion of being child-lifters while they were selling ropes in Shamli district on Monday. They were rescued by the police. Even mentally ill persons are not being spared. Two such cases have come to light in Bulandshahr and Bareilly.

CM YK

A ND-NDE

IN BRIEF



Panel formed for Sheesh Mahal park revamp

NEW DELHI
Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Wednesday constituted a committee for redevelopment of Sheesh Mahal district park in Shalimar Bagh and heritage structures inside it and directed officials to complete it by December 2020. Mr. Baijal directed officials to take on greening activities in the entire area and renovation of heritage structures in the park. PTI

Delhi govt. announces fellowship for artists

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Wednesday announced street performance fellowships for 1,000 young artists in order to promote and mentor talent in this field. Selected candidates, aged 18-40 years, will be given fellowships by Art, Culture and Languages department, said a government statement. PTI

'DU colleges facing financial crisis'

BJP urges Kejriwal to release grants to institutions

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi University-affiliated colleges under the Aam Aadmi Party government are facing a "deep financial crisis", the Opposition BJP alleged here on Wednesday.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta sought to urge Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to take urgent measures to release the required grants and sanctions to colleges fully funded by the Delhi government.

"These colleges need immediate financial assistance for smooth and effective

Candidates for JNU Students' Union election declared

SFI, AISA, AISF and DSF come together to form united Left panel to fight ABVP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Candidates for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union election, to be held on September 6, were declared on Wednesday.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Association (AISA), All India Students' Federation (AISF) and the Democratic Students' Federation (DSF) joined hands to form a united Left panel to take on the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

The other student organisations in the presidential race are the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the Birsa Ambedkar Phule Students' Association (BAPSA) and the students' wing of the Rashtriya Janata Dal. There is one independent candidate in the race who has also thrown his hat into the race for President of the JNUSU.



JNUSU presidential candidates (from left): Jitendra Suna (BAPSA), Priyanka Bharati (CRJD), Aish Ghosh (SFI), Raghavendra Mishra (Independent), Manish Jangid (ABVP) and Prashant Kumar (NSUI) on Wednesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the campus, would resist all administrative and Right-wing assaults on JNU. The Left unity panel would fight for decent accommodation for every student, improvement of transport facilities and gender justice on campus, she said.

Aish Ghosh said that the Left panel would uphold the democratic and progressive ethos of

conditions, social justice in admission policy and establishing placement cells." He said that the ABVP was the single largest student organisation on campus and it worked on real campus issues. The ABVP attacked the Left leaders for not being on campus and focusing on student issues. Instead it helped their leaders fight elections in different parts of the country, the Right-wing unit claimed.

BAPSA's presidential candidate Jitendra Suna said that it would fight for marginalised students and would challenge the binary of the Left and Right-wing forces. NSUI's candidate Prashant Kumar and RJD's student wing candidate Priyanka Bharati also promised to work towards a better campus. Independent candidate Raghavendra Mishra called for the construction of a Saraswati temple on campus.

A first in UP, builder detained under NSA

Nine died in 2018 building collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

The arrears of revised HRA with effect from July 1, 2017, of the 7th UGC pay package had not yet been paid to employees in Delhi government colleges.

Salary dues

If grants were not released in time in the coming months, Mr. Gupta alleged, it would be difficult even to pay salaries of teachers.

"These colleges had introduced some new academic programmes and courses. But the required additional teaching strength could not be obtained due to administrative reasons," he said.

According to Mr. Gupta,

This is the first case in Uttar Pradesh in which a builder has been detained under the stringent NSA, which prohibits bail to an accused for 12 months, subject to judicial review, the

administration said.

On July 17, 2018, two adjoining buildings had collapsed in Greater Noida's Shahberi village, leaving nine people, including a child and two women, dead.

"Builder Shahbuddin, from Meerut, has already been arrested. He has been booked under the Gangsters Act," Gautam Buddh Nagar District Magistrate B.N. Singh told reporters in a joint press conference with SSP Vaibhav Krishna.

Finishing touches



Festive fervour: A worker paints an idol for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Metro commuters can now carry larger, heavier bag

Weight limit raised from 15 kg to 25 kg; no 'bundled' baggage

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Passengers on Metro trains in the country will be allowed to carry one bag weighing up to 25 kg, up from the earlier limit of 15 kg, though baggage in the form of "bundles" would not be allowed, according to rules notified by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday.

Amending the Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Rules, 2014, the Ministry said the passengers on Metro trains will be allowed to carry one piece of baggage, not more than 80 cm in length, 50 cm in breadth and 30 cm in height and 25 kg in weight, except with prior approval from the metro administration.

Under the 2014 rules, passengers were allowed one bag up to 15 kg in weight, with dimensions of 60 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm. In addition to changing the baggage allowance, the



The rules were notified by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2019, put in place a rule against "bundles".

"Baggage in form of bundles is not permitted," the rules said.

Airport metro lines

The amended rules also put in place restrictions on bags carried on dedicated airport Metro lines, like the Airport Express Line in Delhi.

"In case of a dedicated

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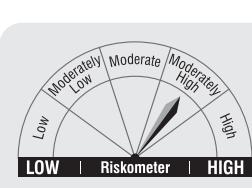
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Dengue cases down by 80%

2015: 15,867 cases

2018: 2,798 cases

Delhi is prepared once again!

I will be inspecting my house for the next 10 Sundays. I hope you do it too!

- Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi



डेंगू पर
वार हर
रविवार

Dear Delhiites,
This year too, we have to come together to fight against Dengue.
1st September onwards.

10 हफ्ते, 10 बजे, 10 मिनट
हर रविवार, डेंगू पर वार।

Know about Dengue

- The Dengue mosquito breeds in stagnant clean water.
- The Dengue mosquito grows from an egg into a mosquito in 8-10 days. If clean water is not allowed to stand, the mosquito will not be able to breed.
- The Dengue mosquito's flight range is approximately 200 meters. If someone in your house contracts Dengue, then it is likely that the mosquitoes have either originated from your or your neighbour's house. It is important to check your home and also that of your neighbours for your family's health and wellbeing.

Just 10 Sundays

- Most Dengue cases occur in the monsoon or just after that. During this period, there are 10 Sundays. If we dedicate 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday for this, we can get rid of Dengue and Chikungunya. We need to spend less than two hours over 10 weeks. In the last five years, Dengue and Chikungunya have been brought under control, and this year, we will do it again!

10 minutes, every Sunday

- For the next 10 weeks, we all need to set aside 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday. Check flower pots, coolers, vases or anywhere inside or outside your house to make sure that clean water has not accumulated. If you find there is an accumulation of clean water, pour it out, change it or add petrol or oil to it.

Let's come together!

- If you have inspected your house, do take a selfie inside your house and WhatsApp it to 8287972050. Together, we will make Delhi Dengue-free.

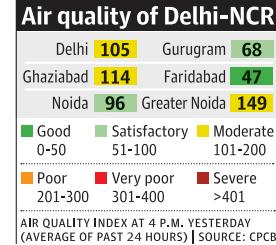
IN BRIEF

88-year-old woman held for drug peddling

NEW DELHI
The Delhi police arrested an 88-year-old woman allegedly involved in drug peddling in Inderpuri of west district, the police said on Wednesday. Monika Bhardwaj, DCP (West), said the police recovered 16 grams of heroin from the accused, identified as Rajani, a resident of Inderpuri.

BJP leader summoned in defamation case

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Wednesday summoned BJP leader Harish Khurana in a defamation complaint filed by an AAP worker for his tweet in connection with the assault on CM Arvind Kejriwal on May 4, noting that 'prima facie', there are sufficient grounds to proceed against him. The court dismissed the complaint against Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari for his remarks in the matter. PTI



DELHI TODAY

Talk: Discussion on "Water Conservation Methods and Strategies" by Dr. Srinivas Chokkakula, Fellow Centre for Policy Research; Dr. Govind Singh, Co-Founder and Director, Delhi Greens; and Suresh Raikwar, Tarun Bharat Sangh; Chair: Ravi Agarwal, Director, Toxics Link. The discussion will address the depleting water resources and raise awareness among the public about the imminent crises that can no longer be ignored, at Conference Room - 1, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: "Vibrant Meditation for Vibrant Health and Mental Well-being" a lecture and demonstration by B.M. Khanna, former Chairman, MTNL, Multi-purpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Book Launch: English and Hindi editions of the book Tales From the Tail End: Your Money Diary authored by Ananya Mukherjee will be released. This will be followed by a conversation between Harmala Gupta, President, CanSupport, and Sadia Delhi, author and columnist, moderated by journalist Pragya Tiwari at Kamla Devi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Sacred Sounds," a solo painting exhibition by Soni Kumar at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Balagan in Metamorphosis & Other Stories" an exhibition showcasing artworks on paper by Rukhsana Wasim Singh, curated by Manuela De Leonards at Shridharan Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Flood delays work on 25-acre reservoir along Yamuna river

Officials say it will take at least two more weeks to complete the project

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The construction of a 25-acre reservoir to store floodwater from the Yamuna during the monsoon, being built on the floodplains, has been delayed due to the recent flood.

The shallow reservoir to recharge the groundwater was supposed to be completed by August 20. "We had dug around 17 acres. We cannot dig the rest of the area as the flood has made it inaccessible for machines," an official privy to the development told *The Hindu*.

On August 9, the work on the pilot project, which is a pet scheme of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, was launched by him and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Officials said it will now take at least two more weeks



The shallow reservoir was supposed to be completed by August 20. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

to complete the project and thus less time will remain for testing out the project this monsoon. It will take about one week for the area to dry and another week to complete the work.

"If there was no flood till August 20, we would have completed the work. But we are hoping that we will complete it soon. There will be

one flood cycle in September for us to get the project tested," the official said, adding that work was going on at a good pace before the flood.

The reservoir, which will be around two-metre-deep, is being constructed on a 40-acre piece of land. If the pilot project is successful, the government plans to extend it to 1,000 acres next year.

Failed actor and accomplice arrested for duping contractor

Accused exchanged victim's money with fake notes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police arrested a man and his accomplice for allegedly duping a contractor by replacing real notes with fake ones, in Badarpur in south-east Delhi, the police said on Wednesday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Shahid alias Raj Shinghaniya, who hails from Purnia district of Bihar and lives in Jamia Nagar, and his accomplice Hemraj alias Salman, a resident of Noida.

Shahid wanted to act in Bhojpuri films. He tried his luck in acting, but failed. He could not even produce his own film due to financial crisis.

He had come to the city and started an acting school at Nizamuddin that was named 'Shahid Stars'. However, due to financial crisis, he failed to bear the expenses. He then hatched a plan of making money by duping people. His idea was inspired from a movie, the police said.



Shahid alias Raj Shinghaniya and Hemraj alias Salman .

Chinmoy Biswal, DCP (South East) said that on August 8, they received a complaint from one Manoj Kumar Sahani, a resident of Haryana, at Badarpur police station. In his complaint, Mr. Sahani, a contractor of tiles, said that August 23, when he was carrying ₹3 lakh when he got a call from one Raj Shinghaniya.

The money, he said, was the salary of his employees. The caller allegedly insisted him to meet for some "urgent work". Mr. Sahani met him and Hemraj at Sibbal Ci-

nema in Badarpur. "Raj knew Mr. Sahani was carrying ₹3 lakh cash at that time. Raj told him that they had ₹6 lakh cash in fake notes and that they could exchange the notes," said Mr. Biswal. Raj tore the corner of a packet to show Mr. Sahani the cash inside it.

"The complainant said that he got convinced and handed him the cash he had and took double the amount in fake currency notes. When he tried to check the packet, Raj refused. The complainant was in a hurry and so he left. He reached home and opened the packet to find that all ₹2,000 notes had 'Children's Bank of India' inscribed on them," said Mr. Biswal.

He tried to trace Raj and his accomplice but in vain. He then registered a complaint with the police.

"Following a tip-off, Raj was held at Jaipur Mor in Badarpur and at his instance, Hemraj was nabbed," said Mr. Biswal. Raj has spent the entire amount.

The money, he said, was the salary of his employees. The caller allegedly insisted him to meet for some "urgent work". Mr. Sahani met him and Hemraj at Sibbal Ci-

Allot unique IDs to waterbodies, says NGT panel

'Landowning agencies must ensure prevention of encroachment of waterbodies'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
Landowning agencies must ensure prevention of encroachments of waterbodies in the city and unique ID numbers should be given to them for identification, a monitoring committee has suggested to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The committee told the NGT that the waterbodies should be secured by constructing boundary walls and relevant entries in the revenue records. "The government agencies should on priority start mapping of small waterbodies on GPS platform, monitoring the water quality, penalising the defaulters and putting high va-

ues on these waterbodies and give proper weightage for their protection. Action shall be taken against trespassers," the panel told the NGT.

The agencies shall have dedicated staff to take care of the waterbodies. DJB has recently designated Rakesh Sahni as SE (Water Bodies). The monitoring committee shall ensure that there is coordination between different

agencies," the panel said. The committee told the tribunal that new water bodies are being taken up for revival from time to time on the basis of information given by activists or newspaper clippings.

"The monitoring committee has visited remote areas/villages to have first-hand information. There is awareness among the people now and the monitoring committee is getting several requests to visit the neglected waterbodies for their revival. Our attention has been drawn recently towards water bodies at Tihar Jheel [Hari Nagar], Prasad Nagar Lake and Tuglakabad Lake," it said.

The monitoring commit-

tee has already visited two of them and plans to visit the other ones shortly. Necessary steps are being taken to improve the condition of these waterbodies, it said.

The AAP government's

scheme of providing 20,000 litres of water each month free of cost to every household in Delhi is being misused by several housing societies, the committee also said. It said that after availing 20,000 litres free of cost, these societies start extracting groundwater. "The extraction of groundwater by using tube-wells/bore-wells is being done to avoid payment of water tariff. The DJB should take steps to prevent this," it said.

Sealed proposals are invited from the authorized Firms/Agencies/individuals for providing consultancy services to Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park for environmental enrichment of the animal enclosures in the Park during the year 2019-20. Interested Service providers are required to submit their proposals along with their credentials and quote their Rate including all taxes. EOI document on Scope of work and terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the Director, Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park on payment of application fee of Rs. 1000/- by cash or DD from any scheduled/nationalized bank drawn in favour of Member Secretary, Jharkhand Zoo Authority. The last date of receipt of the proposals is 21.9.19 up to 1:00 pm. The sealed proposals would be opened on 21.9.19 at 4:00 pm in the office of the Director, Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
Jharkhand Zoo Authority,
Ormanjhi, Ranchi.

P.R.215392 Jharkhand Zoo Authority(19-20):D

जल्दी अंतर्गत का प्रमाण, को कहानी है, मेरे वर्षाव यात्रा को पानी है।

CM YK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Delhi zoo has initiated the process of transferring surplus herbivores such as blackbucks and spotted deer to nearby facilities through exchange programmes in a bid to bring down the number of animal deaths, an official said on Tuesday.

According to a recent census, 245 animals died in the zoo in over 14 months – from April 2018 to June 2019. It prompted the zoo authorities to order an assessment of the deaths.

The Central Zoo Authori-

ty (CZA) has permitted the Delhi zoo to "shift" 120 blackbucks, for now, he said.

zoo to shift surplus herbivores, including blackbuck, spotted deer, nilgai and sambar, to the nearby zoos. This will help reduce the number of animal deaths," the official said.

A major reason for animal deaths in the zoo is in-fighting and premature births. As per CZA guidelines, a large zoo should keep 20 animals of a particular species, whereas we have around 250 blackbucks, 150 spotted deer, 60 sambar deer and 40 nilgai," he said. The CZA has allowed the Delhi zoo to "shift" 120 blackbucks, for now, he said.

The Central Zoo Authori-

ty (CZA) has permitted the

DJB awards tender for lake, park in Rohini

Lake will use recycled water from STP

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Irrigation and Flood Control Department was in the process of installing around 12 piezometers to measure the water table before and after percolation in the area.

Increase in water table

"Though the piezometers installed have shown increase in water table compared to what was shown 10 days back, we cannot be sure whether it was due to the flood or water in the reservoir," the official said.

Now, piezometers will be installed about three km upstream of the project to measure the increase in water table.

"We will then compare the readings of both the areas to understand whether the increase is due to the reservoir water or the flood," said Ankit Srivastava, technical advisor of the DJB.

The project was approved by the DJB last year.

The water will be passed through gravel, plants and certain types of bacteria to bring down the BOD level to 10 mg/l," an official said. Then the water quality will be further enhanced in the lake by using aeration system and providing sufficient retention time in the lake.

The lake will be recycled water.

"Of the total 25 acres,

there will be landscaping and walkways on 14.5 acres and the lake will cover an area of about 10 acres. The project is expected to be completed in 18 months," said Ankit Srivastava, technical advisor of the DJB.

The project was approved by the DJB last year.

The water will be passed through gravel, plants and certain types of bacteria to bring down the BOD level to 10 mg/l," an official said. Then the water quality will be further enhanced in the lake by using aeration system and providing sufficient retention time in the lake.

The lake will be recycled water.

"There will be certain floating plants which will also increase the quality of water and the BOD level will be brought down to 3 mg/l in the lake. The area will have natural flora and fauna," the official said.

The recording of the statement remained inconclusive and will continue on September 2.

Unnao case: court records statement of victim's uncle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday recorded the statement of Unnao rape survivor's uncle in the case in which expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar is a key accused.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma was presiding over the in-camera hearing in the 2017 case of alleged kidnapping and sexual assault of the woman, who was a minor then, by the MLA.

The uncle of the rape survivor had been transferred to Tihar jail in Delhi from a prison in U.P. to ensure his safety. He has been convicted in a 19-year-old case and sentenced to 10 years in jail in a case filed by Mr. Sengar's brother, Atul Singh.

The recording of the statement remained inconclusive and will continue on September 2.

lonies, BJP opposes it. I want to tell the BJP not to sacrifice the interests of the people of Delhi while fighting for the Chief Minister's post," he added.

"There is a big drama going on... Sometimes Manoj Tiwari is the CM, sometimes Vijender Gupta is the CM... at least decide among yourselves," the AAP leader said.

Mr. Singh further said, "AAP is not involved in any personal fight with Narendra Modi and not with the BJP either."

During interrogation, they revealed that they are habitual offenders.

They used stolen motorcycles for committing crimes and leave those abandoned after committing crimes.

They also used to rob the victims at gunpoint, they disclosed, adding that they have committed various robberies across Delhi.

'BJP infighting for CM's seat affecting public works'

AAP not involved in any personal fight with Narendra Modi or BJP: Sanjay Singh

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

AAP on Wednesday alleged that a race to be the Chief Ministerial face in the BJP is affecting works meant for the public.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh also said that their party is not involved in any "personal" fight with Prime Minister Narendra Modi or the BJP.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Mr. Singh said, "There are so many fights going on between BJP lead-

ers for the post of the Chief Minister that these people are not being able to decide who will run which pro-

gramme. In the race to take

the credit, BJP leaders are constantly working against the people of Delhi."

Negative reaction'

Chinmayanand case: lawyers move SC over missing victim

NCW writes to police; UPWC seeks report from administration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW

A group of lawyers here on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court requesting initiation of proceedings over the missing law student incident in Uttar Pradesh to avoid repeat of the Unnao incident.

Suo motu cognisance

In a letter to Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, a group of lawyers requested the court to take suo motu cognisance of the issue. They also mentioned the matter before the Bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramana.

Initially, the court asked lawyers to approach the High Court but later asked them to submit the letter. It also assured them that it would look into the matter.

The lawyers requested the

'Girl spotted in Delhi hotel'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHAHJAHANPUR

The Uttar Pradesh police claimed on Wednesday that the student, who went missing after levelling allegations that she was being ha-

court to issue notice to the U.P. government to trace the girl and provide police protection to her family. "We as a society can't allow another Unnao case to happen," it said.

The National Commission for Women has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh police while the Uttar Pradesh Women Commission has sought a report from the Shahjahanpur district administration in the case.

The NCW, which has ta-

rassed by BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, has been spotted at a Delhi hotel.

But she had already left the hotel when a police team reached there, they said.

ken a serious note of the incident, has urged the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police to expeditiously investigate the allegations of harassment levelled by the student and ensure the safety of the girl and her family.

"Considering the gravity of the matter, the commission is taking suo motu cognisance of this case and issued a notice to the DGP Uttar Pradesh to investigate this matter and send a detailed report to the commis-

sion. The commission had urged the DGP to ensure the safety of the girl and her family and also make sure that the investigation is done very quickly," the NCW said in a statement.

UPWC chief Vimla Batham also expressed her commitment to safe return of the girl, who had been pursuing her studies in a college run by Mr. Chinmayanand's Mumukshu ashram. "We have taken note of the incident and sought a report from the district magistrate and superintendent of police of Shahjahanpur. We are awaiting report," Ms. Batham told reporters.

The student went missing following her allegation in a video clip that she was under threat from the leader of the sanyasi community, without naming Mr. Chinmayanand.

High Court serves notice on M.P. govt. over Wildlife Board

PIL claims some members were nominated against law

SIDHARTH YADAV

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has served a notice on the State government over the constitution of the Wildlife Board after an animal rights activist filed a public interest litigation petition claiming that law has been violated by nominating persons with "special interest in wildlife" to the Board.



Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath. • FILE PHOTO

'eminent conservationist', as mentioned in the Act.

According to Section 6 (e) of the Act, the State governments could nominate 10 persons to the Board from "amongst eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists including at least two representatives of the Scheduled Tribes." The PIL claimed that not even a single Scheduled Tribes member had been nominated to the Board. And Moreover, it said, "As per Section 64 of the Act, the State government has to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act, but strangely the Government of Madhya Pradesh till date has not made any rules whatsoever".

However, Chapter 2 of The Wildlife (Protection) (Madhya Pradesh) Rules, 1974, provides for the constitution of a Wildlife Advisory Board.

CBI examines Mukul Roy, Trinamool MP in Narada case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday examined BJP leader Mukul Roy and Trinamool Congress MP K.D. Singh in connection with the Narada News sting operation case.

Both leaders could not be contacted on phone despite repeated attempts. Refusing to divulge the details, CBI spokesperson Nitin Wakankar said: "The CBI does not comment on ongoing investigation."

It is learnt that Mr. Roy visited the agency's headquarters around 3 p.m. and remained there for about two hours.

Sovan summoned

The CBI has also summoned former Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee and Trinamool Congress MP Aparan Poddar in the cash-on-camera scam.

Mr. Chatterjee recently joined the BJP. While Mr. Chatterjee was asked to appear for questioning on Saturday, Ms. Poddar has been summoned in the first week of September, CBI sources said.

The agency has also summoned businessman and Narada News head Mathew Samuel who had submitted the recordings of several politicians allegedly accepting money from a journalist posing as representative of a fake company.

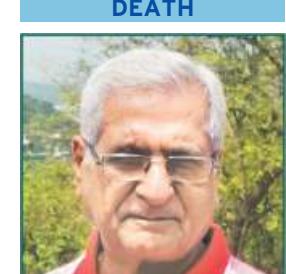
The sting operation was allegedly conducted in 2014 and the contents were made public ahead of the 2016 Assembly elections in West Bengal.

Following a High Court directive in March 2017, the CBI initiated an inquiry into the allegations and based on the findings registered a case against 12 leaders, including MPs and West Bengal Ministers, and an IPS officer.

An FIR was lodged for alleged criminal conspiracy under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act dealing with bribery and criminal misconduct.

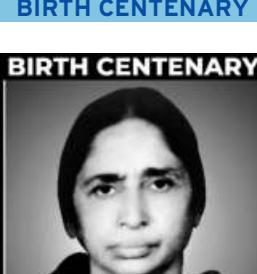
Mr. Roy, earlier a close associate of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, joined the BJP in November 2017. On the basis of the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate is also conducting money laundering investigations.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE



Sh. Hans Raj Kukreja
(01.05.1945 - 02.08.2019)
Gone is the face we loved so dear,
Silence is the voice we long to hear,
Life is not the same without you.
We all miss you.

Satya Kukreja (Wife)
Neelam & Ajay Kumar (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Manish Kumar (Son)
Aditi & Abhishek Kukreja (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Sia Kukreja (Grand Daughter)



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SUNDARAM SWETHARANYAM (SWETH) (84)
S/o. Late S. Sundaram Iyer (Thanjavur / Mayavaram)
Passed away on 22nd August 2019 at San Jose, California, USA
Swetharanyam was an Alumini of Annamalai University, Ramanujan Institute and joined the Department of Computing Sciences at McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana, USA in 1968 and Retired as Director and Professor

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Matriline, border row may keep some Garos out of NRC

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI

A sizeable number of people belonging to the Garo tribe are expected to be excluded from Assam's updated National Register of Citizens to be published on August 31. The reasons: their matrilineal culture and Assam-Meghalaya boundary dispute.

Most of matrilineal Garos inhabit the western half of Meghalaya. Some inhabit two districts of western Assam – Goalpara and Kamrup – along the border with Meghalaya. In our society, the men come to live with their in-laws after marriage. Some men from Meghalaya wedded into families in Assam could not get pre-1971 documents. They are expected to miss out on the NRC, Thengsill Sangma, general secretary of the United Garo Autonomous Council Movement Committee (Assam), told *The Hindu*.

Gau Seva Aayog budget has increased almost 60 times: RTI reply

ASHOK KUMAR

GURUGRAM

The ambitious programme of the Haryana government to make the State stray cattle-free has failed to accomplish its objective and missed two deadlines, a reply under the Right to Information Act has revealed.

The annual budget for the Haryana Gau Seva Aayog, however, has increased from ₹45 lakh to ₹30 crore – almost 60 times – over the past five years under BJP rule.

Two deadlines missed
In reply to an RTI application by Panipat resident P.P. Kapoor, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Departments of various districts have conceded that their respective districts were yet to be made

stray cattle-free.

According to the Gau Seva Aayog's reply to the RTI, the Haryana government had decided to make the State stray cattle-free by August 15, 2018, but later pushed the deadline to January 26 this year.

Though Nuh district and Hailey Mandi and Narnaul municipal areas have been declared stray cattle-free, the Animal Husbandry and Dairying Departments of Fatehabad, Rohtak, Faridabad, Panchkula, Jind, Hisar, Sonipat and Bhiwani districts did not incur any expenditure on it. Similarly, Sonipat municipal corporation incurred a cost of ₹12,43,800 to catch 1,382 cattle at an average of ₹900 per cattle. Also the Sonipat municipal body spends ₹25 lakh per month on the upkeep of these cattle.

The maximum of 4,954 stray cattle are still roaming free in Bhiwani, followed by Sonipat (1,969), Fatehabad (1,415), Hisar (1,200), Jind

(1,196), Faridabad (1,011), Rohtak (805) and Panchkula (198).

Mr. Kapoor, an RTI activist, said the analysis of the data furnished by the municipal bodies and the dairy departments hinted at possible financial irregularities and demanded a probe into the matter. "The Hailey Mandi municipal council caught 205 stray cattle at the total cost of ₹4,30,500 at an average of ₹2,100 per cattle, whereas Kaithal and Panchkula did not incur any expenditure on it. Similarly, Sonipat municipal corporation incurred a cost of ₹12,43,800 to catch 1,382 cattle at an average of ₹900 per cattle. Also the Sonipat municipal body spends ₹25 lakh per month on the upkeep of these cattle," he said.

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An FIR was lodged for alleged criminal conspiracy under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act dealing with bribery and criminal misconduct.
Mr. Roy, earlier a close associate of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, joined the BJP in November 2017. On the basis of the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate is also conducting money laundering investigations.

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NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

E-VOTING INFORMATION

NOTICE is hereby given that:

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 21st September, 2019 at 11:30 AM at the Club premises, 1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001 to transact the matters as stated in the Notice convening the meeting.

2. Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2019 have been sent to all members whose email IDs are registered with the Club. The same are also available on the website of the Club www.chelmsfordclub.in, and on the website of Karvy [https://evoting.karvy.com](http://evoting.karvy.com). Notice of AGM, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2019 have been sent to all the members at their registered address in the permitted mode. The electronic dispatch has been completed on 28th August, 2019 and dispatched by post will be completed by 28th August, 2019.

Green Initiative in the Corporate Governance
Due to high price of paper and printing, additional copies of the Notice will not be available at the AGM. Members are, therefore, requested to bring their copy to the AGM.

3. In compliance with provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as substituted by the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015, the Club is pleased to provide e-voting facility to its members, to vote from a place other than the venue of the AGM (remote e-voting). The club has engaged the services of Karvy Fintech Private Limited ("KFL" or "Karvy") to provide e-voting facilities enabling the members to cast their vote in a secure manner.

4. All the Members are informed that:

(i) The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means;

(ii) The e-voting facility will be available at the link <https://evoting.karvy.com> during the voting period from 18th September, 2019 (9 a.m.) to 20th September, 2019 (5 p.m.).

(iii) The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Friday 13th September, 2019;

One year later: process has become punishment, say activists' family members

Police must prove whatever they claim and then punish; government has hatched a conspiracy against them'

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

It has been a year since poet Varavara Rao, unionist and human rights lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj, and activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira have been arrested and charged under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for their alleged links with the CPI (Maoist) and for their alleged role in the Bhima-Koregaon violence.

Their family members,

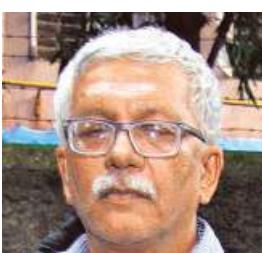
who spoke to *The Hindu* on Wednesday, said, "The process has become the punishment", and it is extremely disheartening that it has become very difficult for them to even get bail.

Mr. Gonsalves's son Sagar Abraham Gonsalves (24), who works for an NGO, said, "It is really disheartening and heartbreaking to see the pace of the matter. There are 10 people languishing in jail without anything against them. The police even re-

fuse to share the material they have against them. The process is becoming the punishment."

He said, "The police must prove whatever they claim and then punish. They have just put them behind bars. Even if they are proven innocent, who is going to compensate for the lost time? It is just unfair."

About being able to meet his father at Yerwada Central Jail, he said, "Since I am the blood relation there is



Vernon Gonsalves



Varavara Rao



Sudha Bharadwaj

said.

Similar sentiments are echoed by Mr. Rao's 70-year-old wife Hemlata. She and her daughters still wonder how their lives changed on the same date one year ago. "All of them have been booked under the UAPA. But all the raids, searches, and arrests happened unlawfully. There was no arrest warrant, and the police got panchamas from Maharashtra," she said.

"The police are not pro-

viding any material they have against them. This is unlawful. The government has hatched a conspiracy against them. No one will be punished because they have no evidence but the process is the punishment," Ms. Rao said.

She said she worries about her husband's health as he is 79, and that the barrack that has all the accused in the jail didn't even have a fan until they moved court seeking the facility.

Central team begins visit to flood-hit areas from today



Efforts to salvage: A staffer at Sangli Nagar Parishad Library arranges books damaged in floodwater on the library premises on Tuesday. ■ UDAY DOLEKAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

A Central team will visit Pune and Konkan divisions to assess the damage caused by recent floods, a government official said on Wednesday. The State has sought ₹6,813 crore in financial assistance from the Centre after heavy rains and floods caused a wide-scale damage and claimed lives of 60 people.

"A team of seven officials from various Central departments will begin its visit to Pune and Konkan divisions to assess the damage caused by heavy rains and floods," a relief and rehabilitation department official said.

Konkan administrative division comprises seven districts of Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and

Sindhudurg. Pune division consists of Sangli, Pune, Kolhapur, Satara and Solapur districts.

Kolhapur and Sangli districts in western Maharashtra were badly affected by floods caused by unprecedented rains and release of water from dams earlier this month. "Some officials of the team will visit flood-hit areas in Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Pune, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. They will be first briefed tomorrow (Thursday) morning before they actually begin their tour," Deepak Mhaiskar, Pune Divisional Commissioner, said.

The team will also interact with affected people for making their assessment during the three-day visit before talking to State government officials.

Seat-sharing with BJP already fixed: Uddhav

He says agreement reached before Lok Sabha elections still remains

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday said there is no change in the seat-sharing formula for the Assembly polls, which was worked out with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prior to the Lok Sabha elections.

"Political alliance between the BJP and the Sena was decided ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in Mumbai. There is no change in that seat-sharing arrangement," Mr. Thackeray told reporters at his residence Matoshri.

He said, "We have already decided (alliance) everything. There is no meaning of any other discussion. Situation is very good for us and we are getting better colleagues. The alliance is bound to happen. I have told you before and I remain firm on my answer."

In February 2019, while announcing the Lok Sabha alliance between the two parties, BJP chief Amit Shah and Mr. Thackeray had said that they would contest an equal number of seats and leave the remaining to other parties in the fold. Last week, Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil said a seat-sharing agreement between the two would have to be worked out for the Assembly polls.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLA Dilip Sopal, who resigned on Tuesday, joined the Sena along with his supporters



Welcome: Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray ties a shivbandh to NCP MLA Dilip Sopal after joining the Sena at Matoshree on Wednesday. (Extreme left) former Congress MLA Dilip Mane, who also joined the Sena, looks on. ■ RAJESH WARADKAR

on Wednesday. Besides Mr. Sopal, former Congress MLA Dilip Mane and Congress leader Nag Nath Kshirsagar from Solapur district were also inducted into the Sena.

Welcoming Mr. Sopal and others, Mr. Thackeray said all fresh inductions were made after consultation with local party leaders. "We have not kept anyone in the dark about such political decisions," he said. Last week, another NCP leader from Karimnagar tehsil in Solapur, Rashmi Bagal, joined the Sena.

In last one month, the ruling BJP and Sena have inducted more than 12 senior Congress and NCP leaders, leading to speculations that both the sa-

fron allies may contest the Assembly polls separately, like in 2014.

Meanwhile, the NCP termed Mr. Sopal as an untrustworthy colleague for crossing over to the Sena and claimed that his political opportunism on the eve of the State polls will erode his credibility among people.

"You (Mr. Sopal) spent your entire life on one side (in the NCP) and at this juncture, you knocked at Mr. Thackeray's door...what a trustworthy colleague you are...how come people will trust you?" asked State NCP chief Jayant Patil while addressing a rally in Malshiras taluka as part of his party's Shivsaway Yatra.

At end of Mahajanadesh Yatra, Shah may announce poll pact

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced that its mega voter outreach programme Mahajanadesh Yatra in the State will be concluded on Sunday at Solapur in the presence of Union Home Minister and party president Amit Shah.

ment can meet their demands."

He said other parties are also taking out rallies, which are not getting the public support. "The Congress started its journey on Tuesday. Since there was no crowd, they had to start it in a wedding hall and hold the meeting in a small hall. The Nationalist Congress Party also has two yatras in progress. Their leader Supriya Sule has taken out a 'Samvad Yatra' (dialogue journey). The situation would not have been so bad had Supriya Sule had this 'dialogue' while being in power for 15 years. Then they thought of themselves only; that is why people have ignored them now," the CM said.

The yatra was flagged off by Union Minister Rajnath Singh on August 1 and had in a month-long journey and two phases aimed to cover 668 km in Konkan, 812 km in Western Maharashtra, 1,232 km in Vidarbha, 633 km in North Maharashtra, and 1,069 km in Marathwada. By the time it ends, the CM shall have travelled approximately 4,384 km covering 32 districts.



Prohibition Act gets more teeth

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

The State Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the proposal to make the Maharashtra Prohibition Act more stringent, increasing the fine as well as jail term for offenders. It will also revise the definition of 'dry region' and 'prescribed limit'.

An ordinance will be issued in this regard soon. "Maharashtra will go to the polls in the next few months. However, the first Assembly session will only be held in winter, when a bill to make the amendments will be introduced. Till then, the State will execute the changes through the ordinance," said an official from the State Excise Department.

Under the new provisions, first-

time offenders who will transport, sell, carry alcohol or run shops illegally will face imprisonment ranging from three to five years and a fine ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh. Second-time offenders will face five to seven years in jail and a fine ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh, while third-time offenders will face a jail term of 7 to 10 years and a fine ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

Prohibition has been imposed in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Wardha districts. The government has also announced recruitment in 37 posts for legal assistance that the State Excise Department requires.

Existing licences for the sale of liquor will be void in the government-notified 'absolute prohibited' areas.

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Online applications from the eligible and qualified candidates of AIAPGET-2019 is hereby invited by using University website www.admissions.hpushimla.in or www.hpuniv.ac.in for admission to MD/MS (Ayurveda) courses in Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Postgraduate Ayurvedic College, Paprola, Distt. Kangra. Schedule for submission of online applications through the University website is w.e.f. 27.08.2019 to 04.09.2019, thereafter the link will be disabled. For complete details to submit online applications including eligibility criteria and other information, please download the prospectus and read it carefully as available on the University website.

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RISE 04:21 SET 18:14

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

RISE 05:58 SET 18:45

RISE 05:31 SET 19:01

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

RISE 05:59 SET 18:44

RISE 06:40 SET 19:44

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 38 28
Safdarjung 38 28
Palam 38 28

Delhi Palam Today 37°C Uneasily hot and humid day will prevail. Night will be easy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 36°C Spells of light rain and thundershowers may occur at some parts. Drop in day temperatures is likely.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRLS

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Annu D/o Virender Prajapati R/o H. No. 197, Street No. 3/7, Janta Vihar, Mukund Pur, Delhi Aged - 16 Years has been reported missing since 13.08.2019 vide FIR No 503/19 u/s 363 IPC Dated 13.08.2019 has been registered at Police Station Balswa Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **ID Mark:** Cut mark on nose, **Clothing:** White suit & salwar and slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Balswa Dairy, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- FAX No.: 011-24368639 SHO, Balswa Dairy, Delhi DP/549/ON/19 Tel.: 011-27811933, 27911934

IN THE COURT OF SDM/ESTATE OFFICER (CIVIL LINES) KHASRA NO.549, NEAR BARAT GHAR, (NDPL BUILDING) BURARI, DELHI-110084.
PETITION NO. 6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 And 14/ SDM/CL/EVE/2019.
BSES YPL VS. UNKNOWN
NOTICE UNDER THE PUBLIC PREMISES (EViction OF UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANTS) ACT, 1971
Whereas petitions under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act 1971 for eviction of illegal occupiers from the flats addresses mentioned below of BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Residential Colony, Tripolia Delhi-110007, have been filed by BSES YPL, H-76, H74, H-116, H-55, H-117, H-57, H-172, H-120 And H-65. Whereas the date 26.08.2019 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the eviction petitions of above said properties may if he / she desire to appear in this court of the said dated 05.09.2019 Given under my hand and the seal of this court of this date 26.08.2019. Sd/- Signature and The Seal of The Estate Officer Sub Divisional Magistrate Civil Lines, Delhi

IN THE COURT OF SDM/ESTATE OFFICER (CIVIL LINES) KHASRA NO.549, NEAR BARAT GHAR, (NDPL BUILDING) BURARI, DELHI-110084.
PETITION NO. 1,2,3,4 And 5/SDM/CL/EVE/2019.
BSES YPL VS. UNKNOWN
NOTICE UNDER THE PUBLIC PREMISES (EViction OF UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANTS) ACT, 1971
Whereas petitions under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act 1971 for eviction of illegal occupiers from the flats addresses mentioned below of BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Residential Colony, Tripolia Delhi-110007, have been filed by BSES YPL, H-247, E-12, F-20, F-17, G-49 And. Whereas the date 26.08.2019 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the eviction petitions of above said properties may if he / she desire to appear in this court of the said dated 05.09.2019 Given under my hand and the seal of this court of this date 26.08.2019. Sd/- Signature and The Seal of The Estate Officer Sub Divisional Magistrate Civil Lines, Delhi

IN BRIEF



Mani C. Kappan is LDF candidate for Pala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has formally announced the candidature of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Mani C. Kappan for the Pala Assembly by-election. The NCP leadership met here on Wednesday and decided to recommend Mr. Kappan as its nominee, ignoring minor bickering within the party.

Wild elephant found dead near Munnar

IDUKKI
A wild elephant was found dead at '302 Colony' at Chinnakanal near Munnar on Wednesday. Forest officials put the age of the female elephant around 60 years. The carcass was found on a grassland by residents. The colony was set up by the government to rehabilitate landless Scheduled Tribe people. Following recurring incidents of man-animal conflict, many had abandoned the colony.



The spot where the children were killed at Navalli village in Koppal district on Wednesday. ■ SANTOSH SAGAR

3 children buried alive in sandpit in Koppal

Their playmates escaped unhurt

STAFF REPORTER
KOPPAL

Almost a fortnight after the electrocution of five high-school students at a Karnataka-run hostel, Koppal district faced another tragedy when three children died after falling into a sandpit and a wall of mud buried them on Wednesday.

According to the police, Sonu, 7, Savita, 3, and Kavita, 2, the children of Maharashtra-based nomadic tribals, were killed after loose soil fell on them while they were playing at Navalli vil-

lage in Kanakagiri taluk of the district.

Three other children, who were playing along with them, escaped unhurt.

The police said that a large pit had been dug on private land for extracting sand.

The surface soil that was dug out to reach the sand reserve was piled up around the pit.

The children, who were playing on the mound, slipped and fell into the pit, and the loose soil instantly covered them.

Prime accused in JMB terror case arrested

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested Mohammed Najir Sheikh, alias Patla Anas, 25, from a hideout in Agartala, Tripura, in connection with a Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terror case.

Sheikh is the prime accused in the case and has been absconding since an NIA raid last month in Bengaluru and surrounding districts led to the arrest of his associates.

NIA officials said Sheikh had been staying in Chikkabana varava in Bengaluru, along with other members of the JMB. The group was actively involved in raising funds for committing dacoities in Bengaluru. They had established hideouts at various places in the city and planned to carry out subversive activities by procuring material and equipment for making IEDs, sources said.

The children, who were playing on the mound, slipped and fell into the pit, and the loose soil instantly covered them.

Sheikh has been brought to Bengaluru and will be produced before the NIA special court in the city.

PM deserves no praise: Tharoor

Congress MP sends reply to explanation sought by Kerala unit president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday stated that he had always been a staunch critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the "outrage" in the party over his remarks supporting Jairam Ramesh and Abhishek Singhvi was based on "hysterical reactions to distorted reporting of a single tweet".

In his explanation to Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullappally Ramachandran, he said the reference in his tweet that "Modi should be praised when he says or does the right thing" was not a praise for Mr. Modi, but an argument for the Congress to enhance its credibility with fair minded voters who had abandoned the party for the BJP but can be won back

I intervened more than 50 times in Parliament, spoke against 17 Bills with courage and conviction. Can any of my critics from Kerala say they have done so? Who on earth can credibly accuse me of volte face from the stand I took when I sat alongside you in the last Lok Sabha

SHASHI THAROOR
CONGRESS LEADER

again, especially in the national context.

Mr. Tharoor said he was "astonished to hear" that Mr. Ramachandran believed he had justified Mr. Modi. On the contrary, he continued to be a vehement critic of Mr. Modi as could be seen from debates in the recent Lok Sabha session.

"Find me one leader from our State who has made 10% of the effort I made to study,

research, anticipate and oppose the Modi government on every Bill they sought to introduce against the spirit of the Constitution and the values of the Congress. I intervened more than 50 times in Parliament, spoke against 17 Bills with courage and conviction. Can any of my critics from Kerala say they have done so? Who on earth can credibly accuse me of volte face from the stand I took when I sat alongside you in the last Lok Sabha?"

Mr. Tharoor said he had always used the power of his pen and his credibility as an author to write against the Modi government's first term. In addition, the BJP had filed two cases against him for demonising Mr. Modi, of which, one was for an arrest warrant, that he considered as a badge of honour.

Moily seeks action against Jairam, Tharoor

Says Jairam was among those responsible for 'policy paralysis' during UPA-2



Veerappa Moily

Ramesh was among those responsible for the policy paralysis and "not the only person".

"He [Mr. Ramesh] was Environment Minister... he was also Minister in charge of Rural Development... there, on land acquisition. A lot of hardship was created for industrialists acquiring land and industries' establishment. [When he was] Environment Minister, everything was negative... no system was evolved to clear it [environment clearance for projects]," Mr. Moily alleged.

"As if the Congress is demonising [Mr. Modi]," Mr. Moily said in a counter to Mr. Ramesh, who had recently expressed the view that "demonising" the Prime Minister all the time was not going to help.

Mr. Moily claimed that Mr. Ramesh's remark was in "very bad taste," and charged the latter with "compromising himself" with the BJP with such a statement.

"And any leader who would like to give such a statement, I think, they are not doing service to the Congress party or its leadership. Because they enjoy power as Ministers, once they come in the Opposition, they would keep a bridge with the ruling party," Mr. Moily said.

Claiming that Mr. Tharoor was never considered as a mature politician, he said, "He [Mr. Tharoor] is often fond of giving statements and finding his place in the press. That's all." "I don't think his [Mr. Tharoor's] statement could be taken that seriously," he said.

Sulking Ministers take charge in Karnataka

Central leaders do not want to accommodate dissenting voices: party strategist

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As the dust over portfolio allocation seems to be settling down, those who did not make it to the Karnataka Cabinet have been exerting pressure for a second expansion. Though Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is also reportedly keen on this, the party central leadership has ruled out any such move till the case of disqualification of the rebel MLAs – pending

before the Supreme Court is settled.

"The next round of Cabinet expansion will happen only when the rebels' case in the Supreme Court is settled," said a senior leader.

Two in waiting

Mr. Yediyurappa is reportedly keen on inducting seven-time MLA Umesh Katti from Belagavi and three-time MLA Arvind Limbavali from Bengaluru, his close associates

and former Ministers, sources close to the Chief Minister said. However, this has been turned down by the high command.

"The central leadership does not want to accommodate any dissenting voice as that will only open a Pandora's box, which may lead to a situation similar to that of the coalition government that was pulled down mainly by unfulfilled ministerial aspirations," a senior BJP stra-

tégist said. Meanwhile, most Ministers sulking over portfolios or not being made Deputy Chief Minister visited the Secretariat and took charge of their Ministries.

Revenue Minister R. Ashok, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K.S. Eshwarappa and Tourism Minister C.T. Ravi, who were reportedly sulking, took charge and held their maiden meetings on Wednesday.

Unfortunate statements' Terming the statements "most unfortunate," Mr. Moily called for appropriate dis-

Office of Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh Short Tender e - Procurement Notice (1 st Call)											
Tender reference:- DMFT/DWSD/Hesalong_Tongi/RPWSS/HZB/19/2019-20 (1 st Call) Date :- 24.08.2019											
Sl. No.	Particulars	Group No.	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	EMD Cost (in Lakhs)	Cost Of BOQ (in Rs.)	Time of Completion					
1.	Detailed Survey, Designing and Drawing, Construction of 5.0M dia R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, Gangway 50 mtrs. Length and 3.00Mtr. Wide, 1.2 MLD Capacity Water Treatment Plant, 2 Nos. ESR, Compound wall, Supplying and Laying Raw/Clear Water rising main & laying Distribution Network, Supplying and Installation of Vertical turbine and Centrifugal pump motor, 63 KVA & 63 KVA Power transformer with Dedicated 11 kv power line from substation and two years Operation and Maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for work of Hesalong Tongi Rural Water Supply Scheme under Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh on turnkey basis for the year 19-20	HZB/ Hesalong _Tongi	1864.22	18.65	10,00,000	24 Months + 03 Months (Trial and run)					
2.	Date of Tender uploading in website	Date:- 04.09.2019 up to 02:00 PM									
3.	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	Date:- 11.09.2019 at 12:30 PM in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. & S. Department Jharkhand Ranchi									
4.	Last date receipt of Bid	Date:- 18.09.2019 upto 05.00 PM									
5.	Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard copy)	Date:- 19.09.2019 upto 04.00 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer, D. W. & S. Division, Hazaribag Superintending Engineer, D.W. & S. Circle, Hazaribag									
6.	Date of opening tender	Date:- 20.09.2019 upto 11:00 AM									
7.	Name and address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh									
8.	Name and address of tender opening officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh									
9.	Contact no. of e-procurement office	06546-262291									
10.	Helpline No. of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345									
1. Only Registered Contractor in this department may participate in the said tender.											
2. Further details can be seen on website- http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in											
Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division, Hazaribagh											

Office of Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh Short Tender e - Procurement Notice (1 st Call)						
Tender reference:- DMFT/DWSD/BUNDU/RPWSS/HZB/18/2019-20 (1 st Call) Date :- 26.08.2019						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Group No.	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	EMD Cost (in Lakhs)	Cost Of BOQ (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1.	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of 6.0M dia R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, R.C.C. Gangway 50 m long and 3.00Mtr wide, 1.5 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, 01 Nos. ESR, Compound wall, Approach Road, House Connection, Stand Post, Supplying and Laying Raw/Clear Water rising main & laying Distribution Network, Supplying and installation of vertical turbine and centrifugal pump motor, and five years operation and maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for work of Bundu & Adjoining village Rural water supply scheme under D.W. & S. Division, Hazaribagh on turnkey basis.	HZB/ BUNDU	577.50	05.78	10,00,000	24 Months + 03 Months (Trial and run)
2.	Date of Tender uploading in website	Date:- 05.09.2019 up to 02:00 PM				
3.	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	Date:- 12.09.2019 at 12:30 PM in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. & S. Department Jharkhand Ranchi				
4.	Last date receipt of Bid	Date:- 19.09.2019 upto 04.00 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer, D. W. & S. Division, Hazaribagh Superintending Engineer, D.W. & S. Circle, Hazaribagh				
5.	Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard copy)	Date:- 20.09.2019 upto 11:00 AM				
6.	Date of opening tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh				
7.	Name and address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh				
8.	Name and address of tender opening officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribagh				
9.	Contact no. of e-procurement office	06546-262291				
10.	Helpline No. of e-procurement cell	065				

IN BRIEF



NSUI rebel wins students' union polls

National Students' Union of India rebel Pooja Verma, who contested as an independent, was elected president of the Rajasthan University Students' Union here on Wednesday. An independent candidate has won as the union president for the fourth year in a row. Polling was held in 10 universities and over 200 government and private colleges in the State on Tuesday.

Security personnel, Maoist killed in Odisha

A Maoist from Chhattisgarh with a reward of ₹8 lakh on his head and one security man were killed in an exchange of fire in the jungle near Pakanaguda in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Wednesday. Deputy Inspector General of Police, south-west range, Shefreen Ahmed K said the Maoist had been identified as Rakesh Sodi of Ghatapad village.

Medical college students knock Ministry's door

Over a hundred students from two medical colleges—Glocal Medical College and Sukh Sagar Medical College—approached the Union Health Ministry seeking urgent help. In their letter, the students said these colleges didn't meet the criteria to run an MBBS course, as they lacked basic infrastructure, teaching faculty and patients.

Tamil Nadu CM questions Stalin's foreign trips

Before leaving on a fortnight-long trip to the U.K., the U.S. and Dubai on Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami hit back at DMK president M.K. Stalin for criticising his foreign visit, asking why the DMK leader hadn't yet explained his "frequent personal" foreign trips.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over East Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Coastal Karnataka and Kerala & Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...-33.8...	27.2	
Ahmedabad	14.6	31.8	25.4
Aizawl	...-35.3...	27.0	
Allahabad	...-35.3...	27.0	
Bengaluru	29.3	20.0	
Bhopal	1	28.4	23.2
Bhubaneswar	29.9	26.3	
Chandigarh	35.7	27.4	
Chennai	35.4	27.5	
Coimbatore	30.9	22.4	
Dehradoon	2.7	35.5	24.5
Gangtok	25.9	19.9	
Goa	26.4	31.8	23.6
Guwahati	0.8	35.7	27.9
Hubballi	27.0	21.0	
Hyderabad	32.8	23.6	
Impal	25.9	22.3	
Jaipur	33.4	25.6	
Kochi	27.2	30.8	23.4
Kohima	28.2	19.0	
Kolkata	0.5	33.6	26.5
Lucknow	7.45	51	37
Mumbai	14.7	12	25
Pune	7.4	8	67
Vishakapatnam	...	-	-

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	47	49	74	70	107	■■■
Bengaluru	10	51	73	...-119	...	■■■
Chennai	12	14	37	25	37	■■■
Delhi	18	69	40	74	214	■■■■■
Hyderabad	30	33	11	41	87	■■■■■
Kolkata	7	29	10	62	62	■■■■■
Lucknow	7	45	51	87	■■■■■	■■■■■
Mumbai	14	17	12	25	71	■■■■■
Pune	7.4	8	67	62	61	■■■■■
Vishakapatnam	...	-	-	-	-	■■■■■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Solapur, Karnataka recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 243 indicating a high level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 20.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

New ₹9.3 crore study to check antibiotic resistance in Ganga

The project, expected to last two years, will identify sources of *Escherichia coli*

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

The government has commissioned a ₹9.3 crore study to assess the microbial diversity along the entire length of the Ganga and test if stretches of the 2,500 km long river contain microbes that may promote "antibiotic resistance".

The project, expected to last two years, is to be undertaken by scientists at the Motilal Nehru Institute of Technology, Allahabad; the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; Sardar Patel Institute of Science & Technology, Gorakhpur, as well as start-up companies, Phixgen and Xcelris Labs. The latter two provide genome sequencing services, which in this case will involve mapping the genomes of the microbes sampled.

Medical college students knock Ministry's door

Over a hundred students from two medical colleges—Glocal Medical College and Sukh Sagar Medical College—approached the Union Health Ministry seeking urgent help. In their letter, the students said these colleges didn't meet the criteria to run an MBBS course, as they lacked basic infrastructure, teaching faculty and patients.

Tamil Nadu CM questions Stalin's foreign trips

Before leaving on a fortnight-long trip to the U.K., the U.S. and Dubai on Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami hit back at DMK president M.K. Stalin for criticising his foreign visit, asking why the DMK leader hadn't yet explained his "frequent personal" foreign trips.



Clean drive: The project aims at identifying contaminants in the river and the threat to human health. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

The aims of the research project, according to a note by the National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Jal Shakti Ministry is to indicate the type of "contamination" (sewage and industrial) in the river and "threat to human health (antibiotic resistance surge)", identifying sources of *Escherichia coli*, a type of bacteria that lives in the gut of animals and hu-

mans. While largely harmless, some species have been linked to intestinal disease as well as aggravating antibiotic resistance.

Entire stretch'

There have been several studies that have looked at microbial diversity in the Ganga but these have been isolation. No study has looked at the "entire stretch"

of the river, according to Atya Kapley, a scientist at NEERI and part of the project.

In 2014, researchers from Newcastle University in the U.K. and IIT-Delhi sampled water and sediments at seven sites along the Ganga in different seasons. They reported in the peer-reviewed *Environmental Science and Technology* that levels of resistance genes that lead to "superbugs" were about 60 times greater during the pilgrimage months of May and June than at other times of the year.

A 2017 report commissioned by the Union Department of Biotechnology and the U.K. Research Council underlined that India had some of the highest antibiotic resistance rates among bacteria that commonly cause infections.

Discrimination alleged in varsities

Mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi move SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The mothers of Rohith Vemula and Dr. Payal Tadvi moved the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking a direction to the University Grants Commission to take steps to implement norms against "rampant" caste discrimination in varsities and higher educational institutions.

Abeda Salim Tadvi is the mother of Dr. Payal Tadvi, a tribal student of TN Topiwala National Medical College who committed suicide on May 22, 2019 after being subjected to caste-based discrimination by her upper caste peers in the college.

Radhika Vemula is the mother of Rohith Vemula, a PhD scholar at Hyderabad

Central University who committed suicide on January 17, 2016 after being subject to caste-based discrimination in the university.

"There have been several incidents of caste-based discrimination against members of the SC, ST community which reflect flagrant non-compliance with the existing norms and regulations in place for the same. These incidents are violative of the fundamental rights to equality, right against discrimination, equal opportunity, abolition of untouchability, and right to life," the petition said.

They urged the court to order the strict enforcement of and compliance with the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

They have sought a range of directions, including the revival and funding of Equal Opportunity Cells on the lines of such other existing anti-discrimination internal complaints mechanisms and to include members from the SC/ST communities and independent representatives from NGOs or social activists to ensure objectivity and impartiality in the process.

They urged a direction to universities and higher educational institutions to conduct preparatory courses, bridge courses, including peer learning mechanisms, to support SC/ST students and first/second generation learners from these communities on campus.

Coming soon: 25% discount in select trains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways on Wednesday announced a scheme under which travellers may get a discount of up to 25% on tickets in AC chair car and executive class sitting. The scheme, which will be implemented from September, is aimed at improving earnings.

The Ministry of Railways in a statement said this scheme would be applicable on AC chair car and executive chair car in Shatabdi, Gatimaan, Tejas, Double Decker and Intercity trains. Only those trains with monthly occupancy of less than 50% in the previous year would be eligible for the discount.

Chandrayaan-2 nears Moon

Third orbit manoeuvre narrows gap

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU



On track: Chandrayaan-2 completed an action lasting nearly 20 minutes to bring the spacecraft closer to the Moon. ■ ISRO

28) beginning at 0904 hours IST using the onboard propulsion system. All space-craft parameters are normal."

A total of five manoeuvres are planned to gradually make the lunar craft's oval orbit circular. It now goes around the Moon in a 179 km x 1,412 km orbit - shifting about 3,000 km closer to its

target at the far end of the oval. It is due to reach the desired circular orbit after two more orbit reducing operations – on August 30 and September 1.

Launched on July 22 from Sriharikota, Chandrayaan-2 has been in lunar orbits since August 20. It is due to land on Moon in the early hours of September 7.

Mega dam plan leads to fury on Assam border

Tribal outfits oppose Subansiri project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The National Green Tribunal's nod for restarting construction of the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project at Gerukamukh on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border has triggered a string of protests.

Tribal organisations in Assam such as the Takam Mising Porin Kebang and All Assam Chutia Students' Union have stepped up their anti-mega dam movement with hydropower major NHPC planning to begin work from October.

Work on the mega project across river Subansiri was started in 2006 but halted in 2011 owing to various local issues, including submergence fears in the downstream areas. NHPC officials said 65% of the work was done at the time and the remaining work would take less than four years.

The hydropower major has been losing an estimated ₹10 crore per day on the project, estimated to cost ₹20,000 crore on completion.

"Our prime concern is people's safety. Unless the government takes adequate measures to ensure safety and livelihood of the affected people, along with protection of biodiversity, there is no question of restarting construction," the organisations said in a joint statement.

Dibang project

The Subansiri Lower project has not met with any resistance in Arunachal Pradesh, but people in the State have expressed concern over the 2,880 MW Dibang hydroelectric project estimated to cost ₹28,080 crore. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had cleared the project in July.

19 convicted in Khagragar explosion case

STAFF REPORTER

KOLKATA

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here on Wednesday convicted 19 accused in the Khagragar blast which occurred in West Bengal's Burdwan district in October 2014 and killed two people.

"The 19 accused, including 4 Bangladeshi nationals, convicted by NIA special court, Kolkata in Burdwan blast case-2014. Quantum of punishment would be announced on 30.08.2019," NIA tweeted from its official handle.

The investigation was handed over to the NIA, which in its first chargeshet in March 2015, described it as a "conspiracy of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, Bangladesh, to overthrow the existing democratic government in Bangladesh through violent terrorist acts."

Senior AI pilot forced to resign

Rohit Bhasin had allegedly shoplifted a wallet from Sydney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Air India has forced its Regional Director for East, Rohit Bhasin, to resign after an internal probe found



Message delivered

Not everything went right at the G-7 summit, but PM Modi got the ear of President Trump

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's twin missions as a special invitee to the G-7 summit in France over the weekend was to address the world's seven most advanced economies on Climate Change and Digital Transformation, but it was his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump that wound up taking centre-stage. Mr. Modi took the initiative to clear the air about Jammu and Kashmir. This was necessitated by the repeated references that Mr. Trump has made about U.S. mediation between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, as well as a briefing by a senior administration official last week, who said that Mr. Trump would "want to hear from Prime Minister Modi on how he plans to reduce regional tensions and uphold respect for human rights in Kashmir". Both U.S. statements run counter to the Indian position that the withdrawal of special status to J&K under the Constitution is an "internal matter", and the issue of Kashmir will be resolved bilaterally with Pakistan. In the event, Mr. Modi appeared to have driven the message home, and Mr. Trump backed away from both statements. The two leaders also appeared to have made some headway on deadlocked trade talks between India and the U.S., and have decided that their trade representatives, USTR Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, will meet ahead of the Modi visit to the U.S. in September.

The interaction between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump appeared to be in line with the broader themes that characterised this year's G-7 summit, where bilateral meetings appeared a little more successful than the multilateral meeting itself. As host, French President Emmanuel Macron decided to invite Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, but the other G-7 members rejected any suggestion to include him in their conclave to discuss the future of the JCPOA nuclear deal. Mr. Trump's push to invite Russia back into the club (it was called the G-8 until Russia was suspended in 2014), which represents more than half the world's wealth also came a cropper as the other members did not agree to Russian President Putin's re-entry. As one of nine special guests invited to address various sessions, Mr. Modi spoke on how India is keeping its climate change commitments, but it was a session where Mr. Trump, whose presence was vital given the U.S.'s walkout from the Paris accord, didn't make an appearance. G-7 members also discussed the Amazon fire crisis and pledged over \$20 million to Brazil, but were rebuffed after a spat broke out between Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Mr. Macron. It came as no surprise that the summit ended as it did: for the first time in the grouping's 44-year old history, there was no joint communiqué.

Murder most foul

India needs a comprehensive law to deal with 'honour killing'

The use of murderous violence in the face of imagined threats to family or community honour is an unfortunate reality in most parts of the country. The term 'honour killing' is being used widely to describe the class of murders that family members commit while seeking to impose on young couples their medieval view that all marriages should be within their community. The Supreme Court, which has been intervening repeatedly to preserve the freedom of marital choice of individuals, once remarked that there is no 'honour' in 'honour killing'. Various judgments have highlighted the need to come down on such crimes, as well as the social structures that keep such a communal outlook alive. The judgment of the Principal Sessions Court, Kottayam, Kerala, awarding life imprisonment to 10 men involved in the abduction and murder of Kevin Joseph, a 23-year-old Dalit Christian, in May 2018, is in line with the apex court's views. The investigation and trial into Kevin's murder have been notably fast. Kevin was abducted by a group led by Shyanu Chacko, the principal accused and brother of Neenu, Kevin's fiancée, just as the young man was making arrangements to have his marriage registered. The court ruled that it was an 'honour killing' based on Neenu's testimony that her family was vehemently against the marriage as Kevin was a Dalit. The police managed to drive home the guilt of the accused by digital and electronic evidence, including records showing mobile phone signal locations and CCTV footage, to confirm the time and the routes through which the accused had taken Kevin before drowning him.

The court rightly chose not to award the death penalty. Instead it handed down two separate life terms, one each for kidnapping with intention to threaten the victim with death, and for murder. Even though there is a Supreme Court judgment allowing trial courts to deem 'honour killings' as those that fall under the 'rarest of rare cases' category, the trial judge chose to take note of the fact that the accused were young and had no previous criminal background. It is disquieting that the 'honour killing' phenomenon persists in highly literate societies too. Discrimination against Dalits is not limited to Hindu communities listed as Scheduled Castes, but extends to those who have converted to other religions too. At a time when caste groups have become politically organised and caste associations attract the young and the educated, there is a need for a redoubled effort to eliminate the evils of a stratified society. In particular, administrators must give full effect to the various preventive, remedial and punitive measures recommended by the Supreme Court. The Centre may also examine the need for a comprehensive law to curb killings in the name of honour and prohibit interference in matrimonial choice of individuals.

Hardly the brick and mortar of a revival

The transfer of the RBI's surplus is only a stopgap measure which will not address the key problem of a lack of demand



JAYATI GHOSH

There is no longer any room for doubt on the parlous state of the Indian economy.

The automobile industry, seen as a bellwether of activity in the post-liberalisation years, is in crisis, as automakers, parts manufacturers and dealers have laid off about 350,000 workers since April this year, with more job cuts likely. While this could still reflect falling demand only from higher income groups, recently, Parle Products, once the world's largest selling biscuit brands, announced that it may have to lay off up to 10,000 workers (around a tenth of its workforce). The company blamed falling sales due to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) that led to higher prices of the cheapest small packets of biscuits at time of extreme price sensitivity because of reduced livelihood, especially among rural consumers.

Home budgets under strain

Sales in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector as a whole grew at only 10% in the April-June quarter of this year, less than nominal GDP growth. The slowdown in sales is across food and non-food items, with the biggest reductions in salty snacks and biscuits, spices, soaps and packaged tea. These represent the more discretionary element of consumer spending even among the poor – the items more likely to be cut down when household budgets are under strain.

Economists with the government who finally recognised that there is a problem have blamed the current situation on the "financial stress" inherited from the United Progressive Alliance government more than five years

ago, which is apparently preventing investment because "no one trusts anyone else". But this isolates only one factor in the current slowdown: the undoubtedly mess in the credit system, reflecting both the overhang of bad debts of banks (worse today than in 2014) and the erosion of non-banks after the collapse of the aggressive lender, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited.

This is a factor, but this explanation completely misses the demand side of the story. It is clear beyond doubt now that the slowdown in mass consumption, combined with falling and then subdued rates of investment over several years, have led to what is undeniably a crisis of inadequate effective demand in the economy.

This scenario has been unfolding for a while because of a medium-term trajectory in which the fruits of growth went disproportionately to a small elite of big capital and rich individuals without translating into broader economic improvement. The increasing inequality associated with jobless growth meant that mass consumption demand did not rise as expected with rapid GDP growth.

Impact of demonetisation

The hugely damaging impact of demonetisation in November 2016 was further accentuated by the poor implementation of the GST barely seven months later. These badly managed policy measures served as body blows to informal economic activity, causing major declines in employment and output. At first, they did not affect formal enterprises so much as they gained at the cost of informal ones. But the resulting loss in livelihoods and wage incomes eventually had an effect on demand for formal sector output, which has worsened over time because there have been no counterbalancing moves by the government. Total employment actually declined by more than 15 million workers between 2011-12 and 2017-18, even as



unemployment rates reached their highest levels in nearly half a century.

This operated in addition to a medium-term trend of wage suppression, something that was even celebrated by the late former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley as a means of combating inflation. Rural wages have been stagnant or declining in the recent period. Meanwhile, the continuing crisis of cultivation has obviously affected the purchasing power of the farming community. Urban wage incomes are also apparently not keeping pace with inflation, even as informal activity and "start-ups" in urban areas have faltered.

The government could have countered this adverse impact of declining employment and consumption demand, which in turn reduced the profit expectations of producers in formal enterprises, by providing a fiscal stimulus. It did not do so. Instead, it kept assuming or hoping that using optical measures – manipulating "Ease of Doing Business" indicators and offering further incentives to foreign capital to attract more inflows, however volatile – would somehow attract investment into the economy that would counteract all the negative impulses.

Private investors simply kept demanding more fiscal and regulatory concessions even as they continued to sit on investment plans as they waited for overall demand improvement. More recent com-

plaints of the private corporate sector have been about oppressive tax collection methods of a government desperate to meet its revenue targets. But these along with the greater difficulties of accessing loans from both banks and non-banks are irritants that would have been tolerated in a buoyant economy. They have become serious issues now because of the wider stagnation.

Supply-side approach

In this context, the Finance Minister's recent announcements of measures to boost the flagging economy are not a case of "too little too late"; rather, they completely miss the point. They do nothing to address the issue of inadequate demand generation or the underlying tendencies of wage suppression and low employment growth. Instead, they once again reveal a supply-side approach to the problem, which is unlikely to yield much benefit.

Even these measures are mostly cosmetic or affect only a small segment of the economy, not enough to cause any real change in economic direction. The capital infusion of ₹70,000 crore into public sector banks had already been announced in the Budget; frontloading this inadequate amount is not going to rev up an economy if those whom banks are willing to lend to are hesitant to invest. Giving into demands of foreign portfolio investors with regard to taxation likewise does nothing to increase domestic demand; it simply provides some solace to the stock market. The middle classes repaying home loans may see a minor benefit if banks actually do pass on lower interest rates, but this too will not provide a major boost to the economy. The decision of the government to buy more cars to shore up the automobile industry is bizarre in the extreme, because it undermines the medium-term strategy of shifting to electric vehicles as soon as possible.

What could the Finance Minister have done instead? If the immediate problem is lack of demand, the immediate response should be to increase it – ideally in ways that provide the desired basis for future economic growth.

Rural focus

Rural distress is real and deeper and greater than the much-hyped distress of angel investors and high net worth individuals; so a massive increase in rural public expenditure, including in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide public works as well as in social spending would provide immediate relief. The multiplier effects of such spending would generate more employment, incomes, consumption and, therefore, investment over time – as well as more tax revenues for the government. There is also both scope and need for increases in "green" public investment for a sustainable future.

But to seize this crisis as an opportunity for progressive change would require more visionary economic policy making, something that this government has been sadly lacking in.

So does the massive transfer of the Reserve Bank of India's surplus amounting to ₹1.76 lakh crore suggest that this is the government's game plan? Unfortunately, because of the mess in public finances, all that this is likely to do is fill the massive gap left by inadequate tax collection, thereby letting the Finance Minister off in the current fiscal year from another embarrassing situation of budgetary discrepancies. The proposed Budget was not particularly expansionary and did not provide for more spending in the areas required. So this stopgap measure may provide more fiscal space than before, without really addressing the basic problem.

Jayati Ghosh is a professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Kashmir's information vacuum

Legislative backing is being appropriated to normalise communication shutdowns



AAYUSH RATHI &
AKRITI BOPANNA

On August 4, around midnight, Jammu and Kashmir was thrust into a near total communication shutdown. In the continuing aftermath of the dilution of Article 370, cable television, cellular services, landline and Internet and even the postal services have been rendered inoperational. Even hospitals and fire stations have not been spared. While law enforcement personnel have been provided satellite phones, locals are having to queue up outside designated government offices and register the numbers they want to call. The blackout is all encompassing.

The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir is accustomed to the flicking on of the "Internet kill-switch", but this indiscriminate embargo is unprecedented. The blocking of multi-point/two-way communication is quite frequent in Kashmir, with close to 55 instances of partial or complete Internet shutdowns being recorded just this year. Of the 347 cases of shutdown that have been imposed in India since 2012, 51% have been in Kashmir. The blocking of one-way communication media, such as cable television, however, is new. Even the measures adopted

during the Kargil war in 1999 stopped short of blocking telephone lines.

Appearing for the incumbent government on a petition challenging the communications shutdown in Kashmir, the Attorney General of India, K.K. Venugopal, made the necessary-for-law-and-order argument.

However, recent research by Jan Rydzak looking exclusively at network shutdowns in India has shown no evidence backing this claim. On the contrary, network shutdowns have been shown to compel actors wanting to engage in collective action to substitute non-violent mobilisation for more violent means as the latter requires less coordination.

In dubious company

Network shutdowns have a limited and inconsistent effect on even structured, non-violent protests. Cross-country comparative research indicates that the shutdown of communication for achieving objectives of social control is usually the riposte of authoritarian regimes. The shroud of secrecy it creates allows for further controversial measures to be effected away from public scrutiny. Authoritarian regimes masquerading as liberal democracies are following suit. In 2016, the Turkish government had ordered the shutdown of over 100 media companies in the aftermath of a failed military coup. Earlier this year, Joseph Kabila's government in the Democratic Republic of Congo had shut down Internet and SMS ser-



vices for three weeks under the pretext of preventing the circulation of fake election results.

Mr. Venugopal further reassured the Supreme Court that the residents of Kashmir would experience the least amount of inconvenience. This line assumes that the primary use of telecommunication networks is for supposedly banal interpersonal interaction. What is forgotten is that these networks function both as an "infrastructure" and as medium of communication. Impacting either function has dire and simultaneous consequences on its use as the other. As an infrastructure, they are akin to a public utility and are foundational to the operation of critical systems such as water supply and finance.

In the Kashmir Valley, over half the business transactions are said to happen online. The payment of wages for the government-run employment guarantee scheme for unskilled manual labour is almost entirely made electronically – 99.56% in Jammu and Kashmir. The reliance on the Internet for bank-related transactions has meant that automated teller ma-

chines and banks are inoperative. What is telling is that the increasing recourse to network shutdowns as a law and order tool in India is also happening simultaneously with the government's digitisation drive. Information flows are being simultaneously facilitated and throttled.

Ambiguous backing

Moreover, communication shutdowns have ambiguous legal backing. One approach imposes them as an order passed under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. A colonial relic, Section 144 is frequently used for the imposition of curfew in 'sensitive' areas as a preventive measure against public demonstrations. This approach lacks procedural accountability and transparency. Orders are not mandated to be publicly notified; they do not identify the duration of the lockdown or even an appeal mechanism.

Perhaps realising these challenges, the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, notified under the Telegraph Act, do incorporate a review mechanism. However, reviewing officials do not have the authority to revoke a shutdown order even if it is deemed illegal. The grounds for effectuating any shutdown also have not been elaborated other than for 'public emergency' or 'public safety' – both these terms are undefined. Legislative backing, then, is being appropriated to normalise, not curb, communication shutdowns. Tellingly, the

owner of an Internet service provider in Kashmir pointed out that with Internet shutdowns becoming so common, often the shape that an order takes is of a call from a government official, while the procedural documentation follows much later.

Treated as collateral damage in imposing communication blackouts are the fundamental freedoms of speech and expression, trade, and also of association. The imposition of Section 144 along with the virtual curfew is designed to restrict the freedom to assemble peacefully. Such preemptive measures assume that any assembly will be violent along with negating the potential utility of technological means in maintaining social order (such as responsible digital journalism checking the spread of rumours).

Most critically, this enables a complete information vacuum, the only salve from which is information supplied by the suppressor. Of the days leading up to August 5 and the days since, sparse information is publicly available. Local newspaper outlets in Kashmir are inoperative. This lack of information necessarily precludes effective democratic participation. Beneath the national security sentiments, a key motivation for network shutdown presents itself: that of political censorship through the criminalisation of dissent.

Aayush Rathi and Akriti Bopanna are researchers at the Centre for Internet and Society, India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

RBI's autonomy

Despite the protestations of the Finance Minister to the contrary, one cannot but observe a significant erosion in recent times in the autonomy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) (Front page, "Questions on RBI's credibility outlandish, says Nirmala", Aug. 23). Two Governors have had to leave the office before the completion of their terms on finding that their views were not to the liking of the mandarins in the Finance Ministry. Among the reasons cited for Ujjit Patel's departure was the government's expressed

desire for transfer of a major part of the reserves of the RBI. It is not uncommon to find tensions and dissonance of views between the central bank of a country and those in charge of fiscal policy. However, in normal circumstances, these are resolved and not allowed to spill out in the public. M.P. MURALIDHARAN, Bengaluru

The wealth creators
The Finance Minister last week said the government 'respects' the 'wealth creators'. It is said that more than 50%

contribution to India's GDP comes from workers in the unorganised sector, who form around 93% of the country's workforce. Being the real 'wealth creators', they deserve to be provided at least a minimum social security package. Many of them live in slums and platforms and are deprived of access to good education or health care. They are the people who infuse life into the market by spending the little they earn and they are the people who vote with the lofty hopes of seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. The Finance Minister should consider

the woes of these wealth creators on priority.

A.G. RAJMOHAN,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

Clean cooking

Many Indian women living in rural areas maintain primitive attitudes when it comes to clean cooking methods (OpEd, "Cooking with gas, not wood", Aug. 28). The gender dynamics prevalent in patriarchal rural families is evident from the article. The household patriarch, who holds the family's purse strings, exercises control over women by relegating them to smoke-filled

kitchens. Rural women need to be sensitised to the politics behind such deprivation. In reality, the gas stove has been a life-altering appliance that has averted deaths caused by asphyxiation and asthma due to smoke emitted from solid fuels. Making cylinders available to rural women at subsidised rates is surely a positive step.

VARSHA V. SHENOY,
Mangalore

Bypassing Constitution
Jawaharlal Nehru said that Universal adult suffrage is not an experiment but the fulfilment of a promise.

This assumes relevance in the context of Article 370's dilution, at a time when Jammu and Kashmir had no elected Assembly and the wishes of Kashmiris to exercise their franchise had not been fulfilled. The special status guaranteed to the erstwhile State was an integral part of our Constitution. The Centre may proclaim that it has done a 'constitutional bypass' but it has actually 'bypassed the Constitution'. N.G.R. PRASAD
RAM SIDDHARTH, Chennai

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Democracy and its discontents

India must strengthen institutions that lie between the public sphere and formal government institutions



ARUN MAIRA



nance were not reaching the citizens.

Democracies need an architecture of institutions. Some institutions provide the vertical pillars. Other institutions provide the lateral binders that give strength and stability to the democratic structure. In the popular discourse about democracy, too much attention has been given to the vertical institutions required for people to elect their leaders, and too little to the lateral institutions required to create harmony amongst people.

Universal franchise, elections, and political parties fighting each other to win elections enable a society to determine who is in the majority and has the right to govern. The problem with a majoritarian democracy is that it is not designed to find solutions for complex problems with many points of view. A government with a majority, especially a large one, can become as authoritarian as a dictatorial one. It can deny minorities their rights for their views to be considered while framing laws and resolving contentious issues. The people have spoken once in the election; that should be enough. Now, they must leave it to the government in power. Thus, a government elected by a majority can justify the exclusion of the minority.

However, by excluding the views of the many that did not vote for it – and quite often these may even be the majority in the first-past-the-post system – a government reduces its own effectiveness. Those dissatisfied with the governments' decisions go to courts wherever courts are independent, like in India. However, courts are not set up to find policy solutions to complex problems and

must interpret the laws as written. In India, many have complained that courts are venturing into matters of governance that they should not. This is a sign that something is missing in India's democracy.

When problems are complex, good governance requires effective methods for people's participation. Referendums of the entire electorate give an illusion of good democracy – that the people have been consulted. Politicians on both sides of a referendum will run populist campaigns appealing to the basest of instincts to sway the opinions of the masses. Whereas, when the issue is complex, voters should be educated about what they are voting for. And then, when a small majority determines how all must go (52% wanted Britain to leave the European Union versus 48% that did not), referendums become yet another example of the problem with a majoritarian democracy rather than a good solution.

Three layers of institutions

Healthy democracies need three vibrant layers of institutions. At the bottom is the public space and the media in which people must be free to speak up if they want to. On the top is the layer of constitutional institutions – parliaments, courts, etc. Social media has enlarged the public space enormously. Many more people are speaking up and many issues are being raised. Social media provides a good platform for opposing views, but is glaringly inept at reconciling them. On the contrary it is heightening divisive walls. Therefore, more problems require the attention of constitutional institutions

above, and they have more on their plate than they can digest.

When elected representatives are expected to vote in their assemblies only according to the wishes of their own constituency and to also follow party whips, they cannot open their minds to listen to the views of other constituents. Thus, assemblies of elected representatives, in which framers of the U.S. Constitution hoped representatives would deliberate upon what is best for the whole system and not just for their parts of it, have become incapable of performing the role they should perform. *The Economist* laments.

With democratic governance slipping into ineffectual log-jams, it is tempting to close down the public space at the bottom, or to impose a majoritarian view from above to strengthen the government. There is fear that India may be slipping down this path, which may strengthen government on the ground, while stifling democratic governance. It is the road to 'maximum government, minimum governance'.

The weak intermediate layer

Political middles are thinning in democracies everywhere. People want change. Radical parties of the Right and Left are gaining support. The solution for strengthening governance and democracy at the same time is to strengthen the middle layer of institutions within democracies that lie between the open public sphere and formal government institutions. These are spaces where citizens with diverse views can listen to each other, and understand the whole system of which they are only parts. Neither elected assemblies nor social media provide such spaces. Sadly, even think tanks have become divided along ideological and partisan lines.

It is imperative for India to build intermediate level, unofficial or semi-official institutions for non-partisan deliberation amongst concerned citizens. The government must give more space for such institutions to form and operate. When there is global despair about the ability of democratic institutions to deliver the benefits of good governance to citizens, this innovation must become India's invaluable contribution to the history of democracy's evolution.

Arun Maira was a member of the Planning Commission

In Tamil Nadu, making power while the sun shines

The State needs a fair tariff-setting process for solar power



MARTIN SCHERFLER

In 2012, Tamil Nadu released its Solar Energy Policy and introduced a net-metering mechanism for rooftop solar panels, becoming the first Indian State to do so. This policy marked a paradigm shift as electricity consumers could now simultaneously become electricity producers.

The net-metering arrangement allowed surplus solar energy exported by consumers to the grid to be credited in energy units (kWh). Consumers paid for the net-imported energy units (import minus export). They received monetary benefits, equivalent to the regular tariff, for the units exported. Consumers with higher electricity tariffs benefited more than those with lower tariffs and most domestic users did not find the mechanism financially attractive.

The Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019, announced in February this year, replaced net metering with a net feed-in mechanism. Under this, surplus solar energy exported to the grid will be credited at a tariff fixed by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission. While for self-consumed units, consumers will get a monetary benefit equivalent to the consumer tariff, for units they export they will receive a feed-in tariff determined by the regulator. The attractiveness of this net feed-in tariff will determine the success of this measure, especially at the domestic-consumer level.

Capacity targets not met

The 2012 policy set a solar energy capacity target of 3,000 MW to be achieved by 2015. Nearly four years later, in January 2019, about 81% of this target had been met, the majority of it having been installed by commercial and industrial entities. The 2019 policy has scaled the capacity target up to 9,000 MW by 2023. About 40% of this, 3,600 MW, is to be met by the consumer category.

Here, an incomprehensible provision is that all High Tension (HT) consumers have been excluded from the net feed-in facility. This means that educational campuses, commercial, industrial and institutional entities and other consumers with an HT connection cannot make use of the facility.

So, why has the rooftop solar model failed to take off in a big way in Tamil Nadu, seven years after the announcement of the first

policy? This can be attributed primarily to the State's electricity tariff model.

Take the example of a domestic user with a monthly consumption of 350 kWh. Under the current slab, after accounting for the 50 units per month provided free of cost, the consumer will pay a monthly electricity charge of ₹1,550 – ₹4.43 per kWh of electricity. The utility company, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), incurs an expenditure of ₹8 for every kWh of power delivered, making a steep loss.

Cross-subsidising low-tariff users

To recover this extra cost, the company imposes higher charges on commercial and industrial entities. Hence, the higher-paying consumers end up cross-subsidising the low-tariff ones, creating a vicious cycle. This results in the high-paying consumers either moving their manufacturing base to States with lower electricity tariffs or entering into power-purchase agreements with independent power producers. Hence, TANGEDCO loses its high-value consumers, with the result that the utility's financial losses keep mounting.

To address this issue, electricity tariffs that allow the power distribution company to cover its cost of supply would be a good start. Subsidy, where required, can be provided through a direct cash transfer to those in need, unlike today where the rich and poor consumers receive the same subsidy.

However, apart from such tariff rationalisation, additional elements are required to enable consumer-category rooftop solar power to thrive. First, a fair and transparent net feed-in tariff setting process is needed. In March, a formula was established to determine the tariff, based on which it came to ₹2.28 per kWh for solar photovoltaic systems commissioned during the Financial Year 2019-20. This is extremely low and represents only about 50% of the actual cost of small-scale solar energy generation. With this tariff, the chance of the State meeting its consumer-category solar energy target is close to zero.

Second, innovative rooftop solar programmes, which include alternative financing mechanisms and demand aggregation to reduce the capital cost of solar energy production, will have to be designed.

Lastly, the State may do well in starting with a dedicated feed-in tariff for battery storage system. This would prepare the state to transition into a smart grid future of the 21st century.

Martin Scherfler is a co-founder of Auroville Consulting, a unit of the Auroville Foundation

Public health versus free speech

Tobacco companies will try their best to prevent pictorial warnings on cigarette packages in the U.S.

R. PRASAD

Ten years after U.S. Congress passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, on August 15 this year, the Food and Drug Administration finally issued a proposed rule that pictorial warnings be carried on cigarette packages and advertisements. Once this is finalised, the FDA will be able to specify the images to be used along with the written warning. The images and text will occupy the top 50% of the front and the back panels of the packages. At present, cigarette packages in the U.S. carry only text warnings and only on one side.

Canada was the first to introduce pictorial warnings on cigarette packets in 2001. By October 2018, 118 countries had implemented such warnings in line with the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that came into force in 2005. It is an irony that a country that introduced written health warnings in 1966 and updated it in 1984 to include the Surgeon General's warning still does not carry pictorial warnings on its cigarette packets.

Industry resistance

Stiff opposition from the tobacco industry on the ground that graphic images violate its First Amendment rights protecting free speech has been the main reason why the U.S. has not been able to introduce them. Even the new proposed rule came into being only after the U.S. court for the District of Massachusetts issued an order in March 2019 directing the FDA to publish a rule by August 2019 and a final rule in March next year.

It is almost certain that tobacco companies will challenge the FDA rule before March 2020. In June 2011, the tobacco companies had successfully challenged the introduction of pictorial warnings even after the FDA published the final rule.

By virtue of their small size and placement, text warnings largely remain invisible and fail to convey the



harmful effects of smoking. On the other hand, gory pictures are very likely to be noticed, leave a lasting impression of the varied risks of smoking. They also convey the central message immediately and easily.

The power of pictures

Tobacco companies are well aware of the power of pictorial warnings in reducing tobacco consumption, urging users to quit smoking and preventing young adults from taking up smoking. It is for these reasons that the industry will pull out all the stops to prevent the introduction of graphic images in the U.S., one of the biggest markets in the world (1.4 million children between the ages of 12 and 17, and 34 million adults currently smoke).

A 2017 study based on modelling found that pictorial warnings could reduce the prevalence of smoking in the U.S. by 5% by 2020 and up to 10% by 2065. Data from countries that introduced pictorial warnings show how powerful they can be in shaping public opinion and causing a sharp drop in tobacco consumption. For instance, in Canada, there was 12% relative reduction in smoking prevalence in just six years after graphic images were made mandatory on cigarette packages. Similarly, Australia, which introduced graphic images in 2006, witnessed more than a 10% drop in prevalence between 2004 and 2008. The U.K. saw a 10% relative decline in 2009, just a year after image warnings were introduced. The biggest threat that pictorial warnings pose to tobacco companies is in reducing the appeal and consumption of tobacco. About 30% of young adults in 28 European countries and Canada reported that graphic images made them less likely to start smoking.

Pictorial warnings can turn the power of packaging on its head – far from brand building, packages with graphic images will become a mobile medium to spread public health messages at no cost to the government.

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DATA POINT

Currency tales

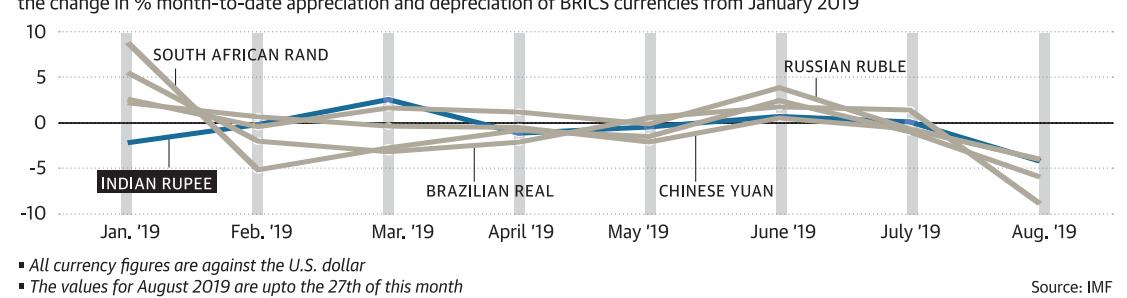
The Indian rupee has depreciated sharply in the last one month against the U.S. dollar. It is staring at its worst monthly loss in six years. While it is the worst-performing in Asia for August, it has done better than the currencies of many emerging economies, which have seen a downturn this month. By Suman Sen

Steep drop

Month	Depreciation (Month to date in %)
Aug. '19	4.00
Aug. '15	3.66
Aug. '18	3.38
Nov. '16	2.72
Apr. '18	2.67

Dip in emerging markets

The currencies of most emerging markets across the globe have weakened in August after registering gains or remaining stable in the earlier months. Among BRICS countries, the rupee is better-off than the Brazilian real and South Africa rand. The chart shows the change in % month-to-date appreciation and depreciation of BRICS currencies from January 2019



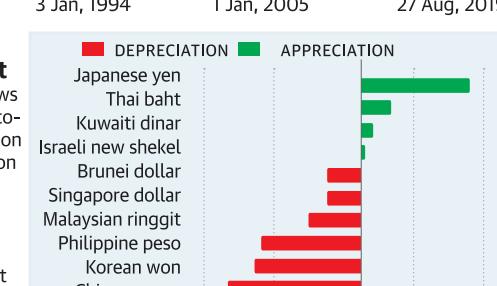
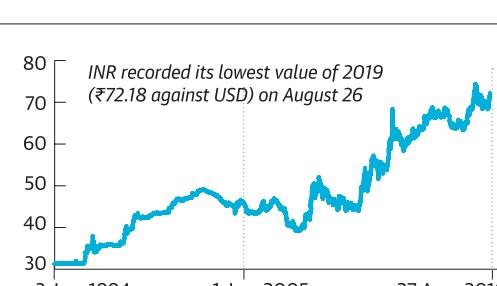
Over the years

The Indian rupee (INR) registered its lowest value of 74.39 in October 2018, according to the IMF

Valued least

The graph shows the % month-to-date appreciation and depreciation of major Asian currencies in August 2019. INR has depreciated the most followed by the Chinese yuan

INR recorded its lowest value of 2019 (₹72.18 against USD) on August 26



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 29, 1969

Arab League calls for summit

The 14 member-states of the Arab League have shelved Jordan's proposals for an early summit conference for at least three months. The Ministers ended two days of talks with a comparatively short and routine communiqué which backed Saudi Arabia's alternative proposal for an Islamic summit to discuss the burning of Jerusalem's Al-Aksa mosque. Despite the fact President Nasser had thrown his weight behind it. King Hussein's proposal for a purely Arab meeting on the crisis with Israel was politely shelved. It will be reviewed again after a meeting of the Joint Arab Defence Council in November. The 27 countries who will be invited to the summit are: Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Republic, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Malay, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, the South Yemen Republic, Yemen, Kuwait, Guinea, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria and Cameroun. In Jerusalem, authorities yesterday [August 27] lifted restrictions on the movement of Israeli citizens in eastern Jerusalem imposed after last Thursday's fire at Al Aksa mosque.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 29, 1919. India, 1917-18. (From an Editorial)

This report, prepared for presentation to Parliament under the requirements of a section of the Government of India Act for 1917-18, is before us. The officer on special duty, Mr. L.F. Rushbrook Williams, in connection with the preparation of this summary and analyses of the many activities of the Government and the people, has done his work well, and has allowed nothing of any importance to escape notice in his very readable and comprehensive review. The opinions expressed in the book are, presumably, those of the Government of India and some of those opinions the Indian press will cordially endorse. Mr. Williams renders high and unstinted praise to India, as a whole – including the Native States – for their contributions in men, material and money to the war. With regard to the War Conference held at Delhi, Mr. Williams says: "The lead given by the English officials was heartily followed by the English and Indian non-officials". After mentioning the particular directions in which special help was rendered, Mr. Williams says "the moral effect of the war was remarkable for the great wave of loyalty which swept over the country when the war began".

FROM PAGE ONE

Cabinet eases FDI rules in retail, media

Another change the Cabinet has approved is that single-brand retail companies can now start selling online before setting up a brick and mortar store as long as they set one up within two years of starting online sales.

Earlier, they had to set up a brick and mortar store before selling online. "Online sales will lead to creation of jobs in logistics, digital pay-

ments, training and product skilling," the government said. Apart from single brand retail, the Cabinet also approved changes to the FDI rules for digital media and coal mining. It has decided to permit 26% FDI, with government approval, for uploading and streaming news and current affairs using digital media, on the lines of print media.

Malik promises 50,000 govt. jobs in J&K, Ladakh

Referring to the detention of around 179 mainstream leaders in J&K, Mr. Malik said, "The more politicians spend time in jail, the more political dividends they are likely to accrue. I have gone to jail 30 times. Those who will go to jail, will become leaders. Let them be there," he said.

"I have gone to jail 30

times. Whoever goes to jail will come out shining as a future leader, they can take political benefit of detentions in future..." Mr. Malik said on being asked when the political leaders will be released.

Senior mainstream leaders, including former chief minister Omar Abdullah, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have been under detention since August 5.

5-judge Bench to hear petitions on Article 370

The CJI sought a response from the government within the next seven days.

In the past two hearings on pleas filed by Anuradha Bhasin and others, the court had adopted a wait-and-watch approach, expecting the situation to clear up enough for restoration of communications in the Valley.

The three-judge Bench had assembled for a special session to examine the dozen writ petitions dealing with the various issues triggered by the withdrawal of Article 370 and splitting of the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

The Chief Justice said it had been difficult to juggle

court schedule as Ayodhya appeals were being continuously heard by a Constitution Bench led by him.

The various petitions include ones by advocate M.L. Sharma and the National Conference party, which had challenged the Centre's "unilateral" move to impose curfew and unravel the unique federal structure of India by dividing Jammu and Kashmir "without taking consent from the people" to a plea by Mohammed Aleem Sayed, a young lawyer who is worried about his aged parents in the Valley to the likes of Ms. Bhasin, an editor with *Kashmir Times*, who is fighting to free the Press from the choke-hold of the authorities.

Age of third-degree torture over: Amit Shah

"It should use forensic science to get irrefutable evidence against the suspect that would lead to conviction in court," he said.

The BPRD should work on a proposal to amend various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after seeking suggestions from the people. "If a Class XII student wants to join police force, he should be properly guided and arranged

ments should be made. The BPRD has submitted a proposal for this and it will be placed before the Union Cabinet soon," he said.

Mr. Shah said that in the British era, the police were raised to protect their interests, but now the duty of the police was "protection of the people."

Since Independence, more than 34,000 policemen had lost their lives in the line of duty.

Yechury to visit Valley

He wanted to know about the welfare and whereabouts of his party colleague, but had been refused entry into the State.

"What can happen to him [Mr. Tariqami]? He is provided Z category security," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta objected to Mr. Yechury's plea.

"Whether he has Z or Z

BSP names candidates for U.P. by-elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party on Wednesday announced its candidates for 12 of the 13 U.P. Assembly seats where by-elections are to be held.

They are: Naushad Ali (Hamirpur), Zubair Masood Khan (Rampur Sadar), Abhay Kumar (Iglas), Ramesh

Chandra (Balha), Sunil Kumar Chittaur (Tundla), Arun Dwivedi (Lucknow Cantt), Devi Prasad Tiwari (Govind Nagar), Rajnaraian (Manikpur), Ranjit Singh Patel (Pratapgarh Sadan), Akhilesh Kumar Ambedkar (Jaidpur), Rakesh Pandey (Jalalpur) and Abdul Quayum (Ghosia).

Chandra (Balha), Sunil Kumar Chittaur (Tundla), Arun Dwivedi (Lucknow Cantt), Devi Prasad Tiwari (Govind Nagar), Rajnaraian (Manikpur), Ranjit Singh Patel (Pratapgarh Sadan), Akhilesh Kumar Ambedkar (Jaidpur), Rakesh Pandey (Jalalpur) and Abdul Quayum (Ghosia).

A stupid man cannot launder money, ED tells SC

Agency defends its push to arrest former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the INX Media case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

"A stupid man cannot launder [money]," the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told the Supreme Court, defending its push to arrest former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the INX Media case.

The ED is investigating the money laundering angle in the case.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the ED, told the court that a "stupid man cannot launder" because the crime requires "layers and layers of concealment" devised by a crafty brain.

Mr. Mehta then explained the "basics" of money laundering to a Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bobanna.

"If I rob a bank - this is only an example for the benefit of Your Lordships' understanding - of ₹2,000 crore... I have to park the money somewhere. So I launder the proceeds of the crime... Money laundering is never thought of in the heat of the moment... It has to be cleverly crafted," he said.

It was usually difficult to trace the money trail. Transactions were digital and global. "It is not like rape where forensics can collect blood stains," he said.

India, he said, was part of an international community which has vowed to wipe out the global phenomenon of money laundering. The crime had affected the integrity and economy of nations.

'It is prevention'
Mr. Chidambaram's lawyers have described the arrest as a deliberate attempt to humiliate the senior Congress leader. "They say it was humiliation, humiliation, humili-

ation. We say it is prevention, prevention, prevention," Mr. Mehta said.

Money laundering was an independent crime and the offenders faced extradition. The question of custodial interrogation should be left to the special court to decide, he noted.

The probe agencies have based their case against Mr. Chidambaram on cogent evidence and not on fabricated records, as contended by the

other side. "We have received material, like records from banks all over the world... We have been given specific inputs like numbers, companies which own them, etc," he said.

Mr. Mehta submitted that a statutory procedure was followed before seeking arrest. Firstly, only a Director (of the ED) can make an arrest, that too, after recording the reasons for the arrest in writing. Any material collect-

baram's reactions to them before deciding the question of anticipatory bail.

Mr. Sibal argued that Mr. Chidambaram was denied bail solely on the basis of sealed documents handed over to the Delhi High Court judge.

"He [Mr. Mehta] has got it wrong. I never said I wanted copies of the evidence. I only said the accused should have been confronted with the evidence first. Only such evidence should have been shown to the High Court to deny him anticipatory bail," Mr. Sibal protested.

While both lawyers clashed over what was actually argued, Justice Banumathi drew on her past experience as trial judge to consult her handwritten notes of the arguments made in the past two days. Her notes agreed with Mr. Sibal's version.

TUSHAR MEHTA, SOLICITOR GENERAL, FOR ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

Guide to check names in NRC list

Links on NRC website from August 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The office of the State Coordinator for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam on Wednesday published a guide for checking one's name in the final list to be published on August 31.

The links will be available on www.nrcassam.nic.in from August 31, titled "Supplementary list of inclusions/exclusions status (final NRC) status".

People who could view the results would be those who had submitted a claim after not being included in the complete draft published on July 30, 2018, or excluded via the additional draft exclusions list published on June 26 this year, or had any objection filed



A woman waiting outside an NRC centre for verification in Morigaon district of Assam. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

against their inclusion, the NRC authority said.

Such people could see their status in the supplementary list of inclusion by visiting their designated NSK (NRC Seva Kendra) or office of the circle officers or deputy commissioners.

People, the guide said, could also check their status online by typing their Application Receipt Numbers or ARNs.

"Those who were included in the complete draft and not excluded by the additional draft exclusions but were called for hearings from July 5, 2019, onwards can also check their status by visiting their designated NSPs and government offices," an NRC official said.

"People who were not called for any hearings held from July 5, 2019, onwards need not worry about their

inclusion status. They continue to be included in the final NRC," he said.

Assam published the first NRC in 1951. Alleged large-scale illegal immigration from East Pakistan (1947-1971) and Bangladesh since 1971 led to the anti-foreigners' agitation in 1979 and the signing of the Assam Accord that sought the updating of the 1951 register.

The Central government took the first formal decision to update the NRC in 1999 and a resolution to undertake the exercise was adopted in 2005 in the presence of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

But the push came after NGO Assam Public Works filed a case in the Supreme Court in 2009, claiming that 41 lakh foreigners were included in the State's electoral rolls and sought an updated NRC. A pilot project was launched the next year in Barpeta in western Assam and Chhayaon near Guwahati.

tion made by the Collegium as way back as May 10. It should clarify whether it had even sought a feedback from the Madhya Pradesh government.

The association alleged that Justice Kureshi's elevation was singled out for uncertainty, while those of other judges, who were recommended along with him, had sailed through.

"The deliberate inaction of the respondent [Centre] in not appointing Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

It is learnt from govern-

ment sources that the file has been returned. In its short order, the apex court Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justices S.A. Bobde and S. Abdul Nazeer recorded that "a communication has been received by the office of the Chief Justice of India, on the administrative side, from the Department of Justice.

The same will be put up before the Collegium in due course".

The Bench further re-

corded that the petition filed by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association would be listed "once the decision of the Collegium is taken on the basis of the response/communication of the Department of Justice".

In an earlier hearing, se-

nior advocate Fali Nariman,

representing the associa-

tion, criticised the "unex- plained" delay by the go- vernment in taking a call on Justice Kureshi. He said the government should act as a "distinguished communica- tor" and not resort to what seemed "deliberate inac- tion" over a recommenda-

tion by the respondent."

It said the May 10 recom-

mendation was made by the Collegium in accordance with the law laid down in the Second Judges Case and Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments and transfers. It said the "re-

commendation is rendered moot by the arbitrary inac-

tion by the respondent."

Payment issues on S-400 deal resolved

DINAKAR PERI
MOSCOW

All payment issues between India and Russia with regard to the S-400 deal have been resolved very successfully, senior Russian officials said at the on-going MAKS air show in Moscow.

The structure had none of

the features of a mosque. He said Hindus, from time immemorial, have believed and worshipped Ramjanmabhoomi as the birth place of Lord Ram. Lawyers for the Ayodhya deity, Ram Lalla Virajman, have also been contending that the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi is itself a deity and could not have been partitioned.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, for the deity, had contended that if there was once a temple on the Ramjanmabhoomi and people were worshipping there as the Lord's birthplace, then nobody could possibly claim ownership by adverse possession. He had said on Wednesday that the Ayodhya deity was a perpetual minor.

Speaking separately, Dmitry Shugaev, DG, Federal Service of Military-Technical Cooperation of Russia, said that all issues arising over advance pay-

ments "have been settled".

The writer is at the MAKS 2019 air show on the invitation of the Russian Government

A code of conduct for legislatures soon

The aim is to check interruptions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

One of the Assam-based organisations that has been pursuing cases related to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has said that the NRC cannot protect the indigenous people of the State if 1971 remains the base year for identifying foreigners.

The Assam Sanmitta Mahasangha (ASM), an umbrella organisation of several indigenous groups, said that a



Om Birla

final NRC would not be possible until the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court gives a verdict on its petition. The petition was submitted in December 2014.

The ASM had challenged the Constitutional validity of the midnight of March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for detecting and deporting foreigners. This date was agreed upon while signing the Assam Accord in August 1985 to end a six-year violent

Babur may not have built Babri Masjid, SC told

'In fact, he may not have even visited Ayodhya'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi was told on Wednesday that the first Mughal Emperor, Babur, may not have built the 'Babri Masjid' structure in Ayodhya.

In fact, the court was told by senior advocate P.N. Mishra, who appears for the Ram Janmabhoomi Purna Ruddhar Samiti, that Babur may not have even visited Ayodhya.

Mr. Mishra referred to three works – *Ain-i-Akbari* written by court historian Abu'l Fazl; *Humayun nama*; and *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* or Memoirs of Jahangir – to argue his claim. He said none of them mentioned that Babur had built the disputed structure.

They said a work by Italian Niccolao Manucci, who is believed to have been a commander of Emperor Au-



Rangazeb, also does not contain any reference to the disputed structure. Manucci did not include hearsay in his work. He noted only incidents he had seen or experienced himself.

There was no reference also to Mir Baqi, a nobleman Muslims believe constructed the disputed structure for Babur.

Mr. Mishra said there might have been some demolition of a structure, probably a temple in the disputed area, during the period of Aurangzeb. He ar-

BSP names candidates for U.P. by-elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party on Wednesday announced its candidates for 12 of the 13 U.P. Assembly seats where by-elections are to be held.

They are: Naushad Ali (Hamirpur), Zubair Masood Khan (Rampur Sadar), Abhay Kumar (Iglas), Ramesh

BJP, Congress spar over Pak. letter to UN on J&K

Islamabad's Minister quotes Rahul Gandhi, Javadekar says Congress leader now has made a complete U-turn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A letter from the Pakistan government to the United Nations, quoting remarks by Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi on Kashmir, has sparked a war of words between the Congress and the BJP. While the BJP has said Mr. Gandhi had "insulted" the country and sought an apology from him, the Congress accused the BJP of "doing cheap politics".

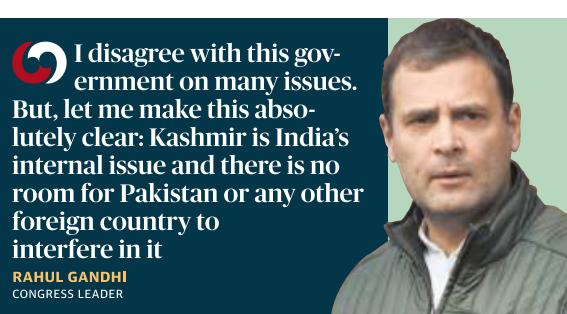
Pakistan's Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari, in a letter on the withdrawal of Articles 35A and 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, addressed to multiple UN officials, quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying that people were "dying" in Jammu and Kashmir. The letter mentions Haryana Chief Minister

M.L. Khattar's comments that revoking Article 35A will allow men from the rest of India to marry Kashmiri women.

In response to Ms. Mazari's letter, Mr. Gandhi took to Twitter to hit out at Pakistan for instigating and supporting violence in Jammu and Kashmir, and backed the Government of India's position that withdrawal of special status of J&K under Article 370 was an internal issue.

"I disagree with this government on many issues. But, let me make this absolutely clear: Kashmir is India's internal issue and there is no room for Pakistan or any other foreign country to interfere in it," Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter.

"There is violence in Jammu & Kashmir. There is vio-



RAHUL GANDHI
CONGRESS LEADER

lence because it is instigated and supported by Pakistan which is known to be the prime supporter of terrorism across the world," he said.

Minister's dig

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar, addressing a press conference in the BJP headquarters in Delhi, said

Mr. Gandhi had made a U-turn on his stand on Kashmir. "He [Mr. Gandhi] has made a complete U-turn not due to his own will but due to circumstances and public pressure," the Minister said.

The Congress leader's allegations about violence in Kashmir were wrong, he said, adding that it was made due to that party's "vote bank" politics.

Taking a dig, Mr. Javadekar asked if Mr. Gandhi's mindset had changed due to a change in his constituency. The Congress leader represents Wayanad, a minority-dominated seat, in the Lok Sabha. Questioned further about his remarks, Mr. Javadekar said those were not about the constituency but it was representative.

Mr. Javadekar did not respond to the Pakistani petition quoting the Haryana Chief Minister and another BJP MLA for remarks on "Kashmiri women".

The Congress slammed Mr. Javadekar's statement. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Minister had lost his "political balance". "It is tragic that Mr. Javadekar is twisting a statement made by Mr.

Gandhi which reflected that Indian National Congress and all other parties are united. We are in unison to take on the fake and false propaganda of Pakistan vis-a-vis the State of Jammu & Kashmir," Mr. Surjewala said.

The Congress did not comment on the reference to Mr. Khattar's comments in Ms. Mazari's letter. Manish Tewari, MP, said that taking cognisance of the letter was essentially conceding that Kashmir was a multilateral and not a bilateral issue. "It's imbecile and childish on the part of the BJP to shoot from Shireen Mazari's shoulders because they don't realise the implications of their act. It only plays into a Pakistani game plan to internationalise a strictly bilateral issue," Mr. Tewari told *The Hindu*.

Never supported J&K blockade: PCI Chairman

'Willing to resign if proved wrong'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Executive editor Anuradha Basin, who challenged the restrictions imposed on communications in the State since August 5 when the government revoked the State's special constitutional status.

Mr. Prasad, in his letter, a copy of which was released to reporters, said the very premise on which Mr. Ram's comments at a meeting on Tuesday were made was a "blatant lie". Mr. Ram, he said, was "greatly swayed by distorted media reports".

Mr. Prasad wrote: "In case you agree that there is something called national interest, my anxiety is to know what should prevail when there is head-on collision between individual right and national interest."

36 suffered pellet injuries: official

Governor says pellet guns were used

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

As many as 36 persons have received pellet injuries in the Kashmir Valley since August 5, a senior government official told *The Hindu*. The official said the numbers were based on records available with authorities of hospitals in Srinagar. The data from other districts were not available.

On Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik admitted that pellet guns were used by security personnel during protests but they took utmost precaution to prevent injuries.

"It's our achievement that there has been no civilian casualty so far. There were allegations that we are concealing the number of deaths, but on the contrary, we are sharing information even on pellet injuries. Barring one case, all pellet injuries were below the waist,"



SATYAPAL MALIK
J&K Governor

ceived pellet injuries, eight were reported in the first week of the clampdown, the official said. More than 200 incidents of stone throwing have been reported during the period. "No one has been blinded. Except four, all pellet injuries are below the waist," the official said.

In 2016, after Hizbul Mujahideen "commander" Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter with the security forces, over 70 civilians were killed in a spate of violence and protests in the Kashmir Valley. By 2016 records, from July 8 to September 6, as many as 7,550 civilians were injured, of which 127 were admitted to hospitals.

The security personnel had come under attack for the use of pellet guns, that by official records, had blinded or partially blinded 30 people the same year.

Poor attendance in Srinagar high schools on Day One

Parents wary in the absence of transport, communications

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The J&K government's bid to reopen high schools on Wednesday for the first time in 24 days failed to bring in many students, as parents remained wary of sending their wards in the absence of public transport and communication links.

Burnhall, Delhi Public School, Presentation Convent, Tyndale Biscoe and other private schools wore a deserted look in the morning, despite the government announcement to reopen classes up to Class 10. The staff were present, but the school buses failed to pick up students.

"It's very risky to send my son to school. Who will guarantee his safety? Who will drop him back," asked T.A. Rather, father of a DPS student.

The government-run high schools, opened in areas in the limits of 81 of the 111 police stations where restrictions were lifted, also regis-



No takers: Shikaras idling on the Dal Lake. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

tered very thin attendance, an official said.

The government started reopening schools on August 19, but attendance, according to officials, remains "very thin" due to unease on the streets and sporadic stone throwing.

Governor Satyapal Malik said the attendance was "picking up slowly".

He said it would further improve after communications lines are restored in more areas. "All phone lines will start working in Kupwara and Handwara too. A total of 46 of the 95 exchanges are functional," Mr. Malik said.

Gulmarg on high alert

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Gulmarg in Baramulla district has been put on high alert after infiltration bids in the past one week, and attempts to attack the forward posts by the Pakistan Army, according to officials here.

Sources said the Ustad and Gulab posts faced threats from armed men who sneaked 2 km into this side of Kashmir.

Delhi HC to hear plea against Faesal's detention

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought time to respond to Mr. Faesal's plea for seeking a copy of the circular.

The Jammu and Kashmir government had informed the High Court that Mr. Faesal was put under detention as per the order of an executive magistrate in Budgam after he created an "unruly atmosphere at the (Srinagar) airport".

Nation heading towards presidential form: Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday warned that the country was heading towards a presidential form of government. "I want to tell you, especially the educated class, intellectuals and students, we are heading towards a presidential form of government with one election, one leader, one political party and one emergency," she said at the foundation day event of her party's student wing, Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad. Ms. Banerjee, who has been exercising restraint in her remarks against the Centre after the Lok Sabha poll, touched upon a host of current issues in her address. On the issue of Kashmir she said that people there have been silenced using the "barrel of the gun". Raising the issue of change of power in Karnataka, she alleged "horse-trading" and said that the BJP's next target was West Bengal.

Moscow won't mediate on Kashmir: envoy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Moscow follows a policy of non-interference in domestic affairs of countries and will not mediate in the Kashmir issue unless requested by both India and Pakistan, said an official of the Embassy of Russia here. The comments came at a press interaction where the Russian envoy declared the agenda of the upcoming Eastern Economic Forum where

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is guest.

"The events next week are extraordinary. Their meeting in Vladivostok, which is called the Pacific capital of Russia, will open a new chapter in the Russia-India special and privileged strategic partnership," said Ambassador Nikolay Kudashev announcing that Mr. Modi would meet President Vladimir Putin during the September 4-5 visit.

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The tender notice pertaining to the Specification No. Coal 58 dated 18.07.2019 published in *The New Indian Express* (All) and *The Hindu* (All) dated 24.07.2019, 09.08.2019 and 21.08.2019 for the procurement of coal with due date of submission/opening at 14.00 Hrs/15.30 Hrs on 28.08.2019 is extended upto 14.00 Hrs/15.30 Hrs on 06.09.2019. All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

CHIEF ENGINEER/MECH/COAL

Viewing and Downloading of documents : www.tanrgoiv.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgp/app/DIPR/2930/Tender/2019

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Request for EOI for Appointment of Agency for Design Consultancy for conceptualization and submission of schematic design and layout for Museum on Prime Ministers of India EOI No...MOPM/EOP/DESIGN CONSULTANCY/2019

Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) have floated the above REOI on 7th August, 2019. Corrigendum No. 1, dated 20/8/2019; Clarification dated 27/8/2019 and Corrigendum No.3, dated 28/8/2019 have been issued and uploaded on websites www.tenderwizard.com/NMML, www.nehrumemorial.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in. The prospective applicants are requested to visit the above websites. The last date for submission of response to REOI has been extended to 9th Sept., 2019 up to 11:59 PM (IST).

भारत सरकार: अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार, SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा - 524 124 श्री पट्टी श्रीमलू नेल्लू जिला, (आंध्र प्रदेश)
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Tender Notice Ref. No. SHAR/Sr. HPS/PT/NOTICE/2019-20

सूचना / NOTICE

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दिनांक / Dt: 28.08.2019
वरि. प्रधान, क्रम एवं खंडार / Sr. HEAD, PURCHASE & STORES

THE GUJARAT CANCER & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(M.P. SHAH CANCER HOSPITAL)
N.C.H. CAMPUS, ASARWA, AHMEDABAD - 380 016
Affiliated to B.J.Medical College, Ahmedabad

Phone: 079-2268 8029 Fax: 079-2268 5490
Public Notice for Destruction of Patient's Physical Case Records of Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute (M.P. Shah Cancer Hospital), Ahmedabad

Under the clinical establishment Act, 2011, The G.C.R.I. (M.P. Shah Cancer Hospital), Civil Hospital Campus, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-16 has decided to destroy the patient's Case Records (Except Medico Legal Cases), those who were registered during January 2008 to February 2010 and for pediatric patient who registered during January 1992 to December 2000.

Patient or Patient's relative (in Blood Relation) who want to retrieve their attested copy of their medical records should contact M.R.O., Medical Record Department, GCRI on or before 31 December 2019. After this date the request to retrieve patient's case record shall not be considered. For the process of retrieval, Patient or Patient's relative (in Blood Relation) must contact personally with the case registration number, full name of the patient along with the proof of relation with the patient.

No. INF/ABD/84/2019-20

DIRECTOR

NLC India Limited
'Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayur Vihar Phase 1, Sector 8, Noida-201301
Corporation Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031.
Corp. Office : Block-I, 1st Floor, Noida-201301, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
CIN No.: L93090TN1956G000359, www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices Sl.No.1 to 7) Sl.No.
Tender Ref. / Scope of supplies & Qty. Req'd.

1. UNIT- M.M. COMPLEX: GTE, ENQ/19-20/001428/MM01(05) Dt.22-08-2019: 5 items of Electrically Operated Hydraulic Thrusters.
Due date of opening: 26-09-2019.

2. GTE No: ENQ/19-20/001432/MM01(01) Dt.22-08-2019: 6 Items of Cardon shaft.
Due date of opening: 25-09-2019.

3. GTE,ENQ/19-20/001448/MM01(05) Dt.23-08-2019: Input Bevel pinion shaft & Gear for 750KW Bucketwheel gear box.
Due date of opening: 24-09-2019.

4. ENQ/19-20/001466/MM02 (07) Dt.23-08-2019: Stringer Channel and Sleepers.
Due date of opening: 24-09-2019.

5. ENQ/19-20/001473/MM02 (08) Dt.23-08-2019: Steel Dome Bridge.
Due date of opening: 2

U.K. Opposition condemns Boris move

Parliament suspension a 'smash-and-grab' on democracy to force through a no-deal exit', says Corbyn

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday announced the suspension of Parliament in the final weeks before Britain's EU departure date, enraging anti-Brexit MPs.

Queen Elizabeth II has approved the request to close what has been the longest session of Parliament in nearly 400 years, and reopen it on October 14 setting out Mr. Johnson's fresh legislative programme.

Seemingly caught on the hop, incensed anti-Brexit MPs were left scrambling for a way to stop the move.

Mr. Johnson's announcement came after six Opposition parties said on Tuesday they would first seek to legislate to prevent leaving the EU without a deal when Parliament returns from a summer recess next week.

Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main Opposition Labour Party, has said he wants to call a vote of no-confidence in Mr. Johnson's government, which commands a majority of just one seat.



Strong reaction: A man wearing a mask of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson protesting outside Downing Street in London on Wednesday. ■ REUTERS

John Bercow, the Speaker of Parliament's lower House of Commons, described the closure as a "constitutional outrage" designed to stymie debate on Brexit, with Britain currently on course to crash out without a divorce deal.

An EU summit on October 17-18 could decide whether Britain ends its four decades of membership without a withdrawal agreement that governs future trade relations and citizens rights.

Mr. Johnson said there

would be "ample time" either side of the summit for MPs to debate Brexit.

He said it was "completely untrue" that the move was designed to stop MPs blocking his Brexit strategy.

Mr. Johnson said it was to "bring forward a new, bold and ambitious domestic legislative agenda for the renewal of our country after Brexit".

The government's chief Brexit adviser David Frost was in Brussels for talks on Wednesday.

In the seismic 2016 referendum on Britain's EU membership, 52% voted in favour of leaving the bloc, a result that has left parliament and the country bitterly divided.

Mr. Johnson insists Britain must leave on the October 31 deadline – already twice-delayed – with or without a divorce deal from Brussels.

Parliament has rejected three times the withdrawal agreement struck between Brussels and the government of Mr. Johnson's predecessor

Theresa May. Parliament typically goes into recess again around the annual party conference season, which kicks off on September 14 and ends on October 2.

'A coup'

Mr. Bercow, who was not forewarned about Mr. Johnson's suspension decision, said: "It is blindingly obvious that the purpose of prorogation now would be to stop Parliament debating Brexit."

"Shutting down Parliament would be an offence against the democratic process."

Mr. Corbyn called it "an outrage" and a "smash-and-grab on our democracy in order to force through a no-deal exit", while Labour's Finance spokesman John McDonnell branded it a "coup".

Liberal Democrat Brexit spokesman Tom Brake tweeted: "The mother of all parliaments will not allow him to shut the people's parliament out of the biggest decision facing our country. His declaration of war will be met with an iron fist."

'One country, two systems' and many problems

With Hong Kong in disarray, China's policy is back in focus

STANLY JOHNY

Protests in Hong Kong, now in its 13th consecutive week, have brought a decades-old policy of China back into focus – 'One Country Two Systems'.

The protesters, who started occupying the city's streets in April after the local government proposed an extradition law, say Beijing is trying to violate this policy by infringing on Hong Kong's autonomy. They want China to end its interference, while Beijing says it sticks to the principle and has likened the protesters to terrorists.

So, what's this One Country Two Systems principle?

Origin of policy

To put it simply, it means Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions, both former colonies, can have different economic and political systems from that of mainland China, while being part of the People's Republic of China.

The policy was originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping shortly after he took the reins of the country in the late 1970s. Deng's plan was to unify China and Taiwan under the One Country Two Systems principle. He promised high autonomy to Taiwan. China's nationalist government, which was defeated in a civil war by the communists in 1949, had exiled to Taiwan. The island has since been run as a separate entity from the mainland China, though Beijing never gave up its claim over Taiwan.



A protester throws back a tear gas canister during clashes with police. ■ AFP

signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which set the terms for the autonomy and the legal, economic and governmental systems for Hong Kong after the British exit. Similarly, on March 26, 1987, China and Portugal signed the Joint Declaration in which China made similar promises for Macau.

Hong Kong returned to Chinese control on July 1, 1997, and Macau on December 20, 1999. The regions can have their own currencies, economic and legal systems, but defence and diplomacy will be decided by Beijing. Their mini-Constitutions will remain valid for 50 years – till 2047 for Hong Kong and 2049 for Macau. It is unclear what will happen after this term.

Back to China

The idea of two systems in one country resurfaced when Beijing started talks with Britain and Portugal, who were running Hong Kong and Macau, respectively.

EXPLAINER

The British had taken control of Hong Kong in 1842 after the First Opium War. In 1898, the British government and the Qing dynasty of China signed the Second Convention of Peking, which allowed the British to take control of the islands surrounding Hong Kong, known as New Territories, on lease for 99 years. Macau, on the other side, had been ruled by the Portuguese from 1557.

In the 1980s, China initiated talks with both Britain and Portugal for the transfer of the two territories. Beijing promised to respect the region's autonomy under the One Country Two Systems principle. On December 19, 1984, China and the U.K.

This triggered the protests, and they went on despite Ms. Lam's decision to suspend the Bill. The protesters, who often clashed with the police, now want the Bill to be formally withdrawn, Ms. Lam to resign, the arrested protesters to be released and the city's electoral system to be reformed.

Taliban and U.S. close to deal'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL The U.S. and the Taliban are "close" to reaching an agreement for a deal that would see the Pentagon slash its troop numbers in Afghanistan, a spokesman for the insurgents said on Wednesday.

The two foes have been meeting in Doha in recent days in a bid to put the final touches on a historic deal that would see the Taliban make various security guarantees in return for a sharp reduction in U.S. troops based in Afghanistan.

"We are close to an agreement. We hope to bring good news for our Muslim and freedom seeking nation soon," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid tweeted. The U.S. embassy in Kabul did not immediately comment. But Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani, said U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad would come to Kabul in "one or two" days to brief the Afghan leader about the deal.

A senior Taliban commander in Pakistan said that

Facebook tightens rules for political ads in U.S.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON Facebook said on Wednesday it would tighten its rules for political ad spending ahead of the 2020 U.S. election, notably by requiring more information about who is paying for campaign messages.

The move is the latest by Facebook to crack down on efforts to deceive or manipulate users after the social network admitted lapses in the 2016 election.

While Facebook has already begun requiring political advertisers to provide identification to confirm who they are and where they are located, the new policy requires more information to show they are registered with the U.S. government. This new verification can be done by submitting a tax identification number or proof that the group is registered with the Federal Election Commission.

Respiratory ailments rise as Amazon fires rage

Children and elderly most affected

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTO VELHO Lingering smoke in the Amazon is reportedly causing increased respiratory problems, particularly among children and the elderly, as fires in the region rage.

"The kids are affected the most. They're coughing a lot," said Elane Diaz, a nurse in the Rondonia state capital of Porto Velho, as she waited for a doctor's appointment on Tuesday at the city's 9 of July hospital with her 5-year-old son Eduardo.

"They have problems breathing. I'm concerned because it affects their health."

The number of people treated for respiratory is-

sues increased sharply in recent days at the local Cosme e Damia Children's hospital.

"This period has been very tough. The dry weather and the smoke causes many problems for children such as pneumonia, coughing and secretion," Daniel Pires, a pediatrician and the hospital's adjunct director told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper.

Fears over health impacts have been growing with the surge in fires, with more than 77,000 blazes documented by the country's National Space Research Institute since the start of the year. About half of the fires occurred in the Amazon region, with most in the past month.

26 killed, 11 injured as attackers set strip club in Mexico on fire



In shock: People breaking down outside the bar, which was set on fire in Mexico on Tuesday night. ■ AFP

Mexico's rival drug cartels and a hotbed of political corruption.

Survivors said gunmen sprayed bullets as they descended on the bar, the Caballo Blanco (White Horse), then blocked the exits and set the club alight.

Authorities said many of the victims died of smoke inhalation. It was not immediately clear whether some died of gunshot wounds.

Veracruz Governor Cuitláhuac García tweeted that authorities had identified one of the attackers as Ricardo "N" – Mexican law bars the release of suspects' full names – adding that he was a repeat offender known as "La Loca" ("The Crazy One").

Italy's M5S seals deal with + PD for new coalition

It will be led by outgoing PM Conte

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ROME Italy's anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the centre-left Democratic Party clinched a deal on Wednesday to form a government and stave off elections in Eurozone's third largest economy.

Five Star (M5S) said the coalition would be led by outgoing Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who had resigned following the collapse of the populist government. The deal between the two historic enemies is set to bring to an end what Italian newspapers have dubbed "the craziest crisis ever".

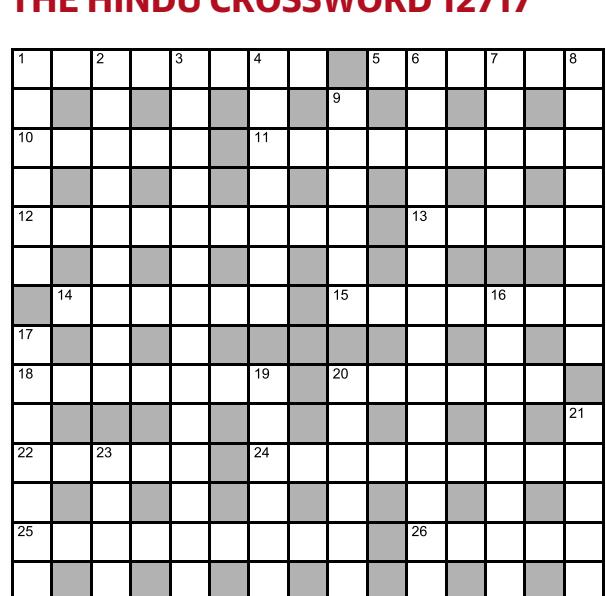
M5S head Luigi Di Maio told journalists in Rome that

the endorsement on Tuesday of Mr. Conte by U.S. President Donald Trump "had shown us we were on the right path". The parties had been bickering over whether Mr. Conte – a soft-spoken former academic – should lead a new coalition or whether fresh faces would better signal a fresh start.

Mr. Di Maio has warned, however, that any deal with the Democratic Party (PD) would still have to be approved by party members in an online vote.

Far-right leader Matteo Salvini, who triggered the crisis on August 8 when he withdrew his League party from the governing coalition with M5S, said the new setup was unlikely to last.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12717



ACROSS

- New university head accepts point on reflection (2-2-4)
- Blunder to enter gala nearly showing rifle (6)
- Smart move taking model for wife (5)
- Pure boiled food is good (9)
- Secret police tried to capture essentially dangerous criminal (9)

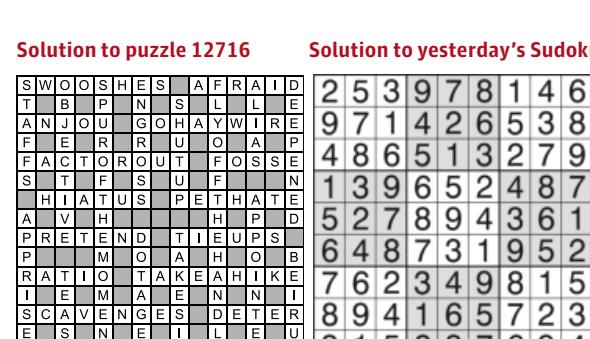
DOWN

- Heartily encourage nervous nurse lacking self-confidence (6)
- Reappear in future curriculum (5)
- Model wearing spotted, glossy fabric (6)
- Endures insolent son stifling sister (8)
- Attacks corrupt, revolting man aboard steamer (6)
- I do it stupidly? (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12716



FAITH

Five divine elements

The Lord's physical form is not made of the five elements as in the case of humans. It is composed of five divine elements. The Lord's physical form is called Divya Mangala Vigraha. But when the Lord took avatars, He did not reveal these differences between our forms and His. When Rama goes to bring the golden deer, Lakshmana warns Him. He says other deer run away in fear from the golden deer. This must be because the golden deer gives off the smell of an asura, Lakshmana says. So however much one might try to disguise one's natural traits, they are bound to show up.

But, during His avatars, the Lord concealed all His natural characteristics, taking on the characteristics needed for that avatar, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. When He appeared as Varaha, other boars did not shy away from Him. Instead, they rubbed themselves on His back. This would have been possible only if they had been convinced that He was one of them. So, He must have also smelt like them. But how can He smell like a boar? Would it not be wrong to make such inferences? Nampillai explains why it is not wrong. The Vedas describe Him as sarva gandha, that means the One who has all kinds of smells. In that case, what is wrong if we say that He did not smell differently from the boars, during His Varaha avatar?

The Varaha Purana says we should offer tubers of nutmeg to Lord Varaha. These are tubers only boars like to eat. When Nanjeeyar read of Varaha's preferred food, he fainted at the thought of the Supreme One eating the favourite food of boars. In the Srimushna temple, even today they give devotees a churnam as prasada. This is nothing but the nutmeg tubers powdered with sugar to make them palatable to us. But the Lord gladly ate this when He was Varaha!

MARKET WATCH

	28-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,452	-0.50
US Dollar	71.77	-0.41
Gold	39,970	0.76
Brent oil	60.4	2.94

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	365.95	-6.10
Asian Paints	1603.15	3.70
Axis Bank	678.20	-4.75
Bajaj Auto	2766.75	-0.25
Bajaj Finance	7035.95	-0.55
Bharti Airtel	345.80	-2.50
BPCL	350.55	8.25
Britannia Ind	2703.10	17.20
Cipla	464.25	-1.10
Coal India	185.05	-6.80
Dr Reddys Lab	2512.10	-28.60
Eicher Motors	16297.45	302.05
GAIL (India)	128.05	-2.15
Grasim Ind	713.50	-10.45
HCL Tech	1123.95	30.85
HDPC	2187.15	12.85
HDFC Bank	2247.50	-12.45
Hero MotoCorp	2568.50	-45.95
Hindalco	178.40	-2.80
Hind Unilever	1828.10	-33.30
Indiabulls HFL	457.25	-14.25
ICICI Bank	412.95	-5.65
IndusInd Bank	1365.85	-20.25
Bharti Infratech	248.80	3.75
Infosys	802.50	17.85
Indian Oil Corp	122.90	-2.85
ITC	245.95	0.45
JSW Steel	205.75	-7.65
Kotak Bank	1483.65	-17.90
L&T	1344.65	-12.30
M&M	539.70	-14.35
Maruti Suzuki	6103.40	-174.35
NTPC	119.90	-3.30
ONGC	121.20	-4.40
PowerGrid Corp	205.75	-0.80
Reliance Ind	1263.30	-11.55
State Bank	284.90	-0.80
Sun Pharma	413.10	-3.65
Tata Motors	116.35	-4.00
Tata Steel	336.95	-13.95
TCS	2239.25	2.75
Tech Mahindra	690.20	13.85
Titan	1110.95	-12.75
UltraTech Cement	4119.80	-15.90
UPL	557.00	1.00
Vedanta	132.35	-5.75
Wipro	249.25	-0.85
YES Bank	59.50	-5.00
Zee Entertainment	364.20	0.45

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.57	71.89
Euro	79.33	79.69
British Pound	87.40	87.80
Japanese Yen (100)	67.70	68.00
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.04
Swiss Franc	72.94	73.27
Singapore Dollar	51.54	51.78
Canadian Dollar	53.77	54.02
Malaysian Ringgit	16.99	17.07

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 28 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) 51.9 (50)

22 ct gold (1g) 3713.0 (3680)

Nod for sugar export subsidy

Cabinet okays offer of ₹10.45 per kg to incentivise mills to export surplus stocks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

With record sugar production continuing to drive down prices even as cane farmers face huge arrears in payment, the Centre has decided to offer a ₹10.45 per kg subsidy to incentivise mills to export their surplus stocks. The export subsidy package will cost the exchequer ₹6,268 crore, according to an official statement.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday.

60 lakh tonnes

The subsidy package will facilitate the export of up to 60 lakh tonnes in the 2019-20 marketing season, which begins in October. It will benefit millions of farmers in U.P.,



Booster shot: The subsidy will be directly credited into the farmer's account on behalf of mills against the dues. ■ REUTERS

Indian Oil Corp. to set up greenfield refinery in Nagai

Company plans aluminium anode battery plant in Chennai

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is planning to set up a 9 million metric-tonnes-per annum (mmtpa) greenfield refinery at Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu to expand its refining capacity and help meet the rising energy demand in India.

The expansion will be carried out by its subsidiary Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL).

"Besides the West Coast refinery, we are looking at a greenfield refinery expansion on India's East Coast in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. The financials of the refinery project need to be worked

C The financials of the project need to be approved by the CPCL board

SANJIV SINGH,

IOCL Chairman

out and approved by the board of CPCL," IOCL chairman Sanjiv Singh told *The Hindu*. In a bid to diversify into non-fossil fuel, IOCL is also planning to set up an aluminium anode battery plant in Chennai.

"We are looking at manufacturing various batteries, storage, [and] improving conventional battery. We are talking something beyond lithium, as lithium batteries are not the best answer, for,

India doesn't have lithium," Mr. Singh said.

Gurmeet Singh, IOCL's Director – Marketing, said, "We are in an advanced stage of development of aluminium anode-based batteries, as aluminium is available in India in abundance. We will manufacture these batteries in Chennai. These will be self-charging and much cheaper and lighter than the conventional lithium ion battery."

"The battery plant is expected to come up in joint venture with a foreign player. The ideal size of the unit may be one giga watt," said S.S. Ramakumar, Director – R&D at IOC. When asked about the break-up of investments, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*, "As the conventional fuel business is growing, we are expanding almost all our refineries from Panipat to Paradip. We are also clubbing petrochemicals in all the refineries. We are making necessary investments in pipeline and marketing infrastructure so that there will be no shortage in meeting the growing energy demands of the country."

M. SOUNDARIY PREETHA

COIMBATORE

The approval by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday for sugar export subsidy would help reduce the surplus sugar inventory, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

Abinash Verma, director general, ISMA, said that the export of six million tonnes of sugar during the 2019-20 marketing season would not only reduce the surplus inventory of the commodity in the country next season but also result in an additional cash flow of ₹18,000 crore in the sector, including subsidy amount.

With an expected global deficit next season of nearly four million tonnes, "the

timely announcement of India's export programme with a WTO compliant export subsidy of ₹10,448 per tonne will enable Indian millers export the six million tonnes," he said.

An industry source said sugar production this season (October 2018 to September 2019) in the country was almost 33 million tonnes and close to four million tonnes of sugar were down. In the next season, a global deficit is expected.

Hence, exports are likely to be viable for the Indian sugar sector. "It is a huge stock [that we have] and we need to export. Now, people can plan for the next season," the source said.

R. Varadarajan, whole-time director, Rajshree Sugars and Chemicals, said while the export subsidy would benefit mills in north India, sugar mills in Tamil Nadu need a "larger support package." The mills in Tamil Nadu were already operating below capacity.

So, the units here might still not be able to export. The Tamil Nadu mills need incentives without linking them to exports, he said.

IOCL plans investments of ₹2 lakh crore

Oil major to expand refining, petrochemicals and natural gas businesses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), India's largest refiner, plans to invest ₹2 lakh crore in the next 5-7 years to expand its refining, marketing, petrochemicals and natural gas business.

"Indian Oil has planned ₹2 lakh crore investments in the next five to seven years to evolve into a future-ready corporate that provides comprehensive energy solutions to diverse user groups," said IOCL chairman Sanjiv Singh.

When asked about the break-up of investments, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*, "As the conventional fuel business is growing, we are expanding almost all our refineries from Panipat to Paradip. We are also clubbing petrochemicals in all the refineries. We are making necessary investments in pipeline and marketing infrastructure so that there will be no shortage in meeting the growing energy demands of the country."

IOCL accounts for about one-third of India's refining capacity of 250 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) with II refineries. The company plans to invest over ₹20,000 crore in expansion of its petrochemicals project till 2023-24, after spending ₹25,000 crore in major petrochemicals projects in the Panipat and Paradip refineries.

IOCL, along with HPCL and BPCL, is building the world's longest – 2,757-km – LPG pipeline from Kandla in Gujarat to Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

The company is taking up 17 pipelines at a combined cost of ₹24,000 crore to expand the network to about 21,500 km in the next three years.

Indian Oil plans to invest ₹10,000 crore in the development of the city gas distribution (CGD) network in the next eight years.

IOCL has spent ₹28,000 crore in the last fiscal and plans to invest ₹25,000 crore this fiscal.

Imprudent to ground entire fleet of P&W-powered planes'

Strong mitigation measures in place, says aviation regulator

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Aviation safety regulator DGCA on Wednesday said it would be imprudent to ground the entire fleet of Pratt and Whitney (P&W) powered planes with Indian airlines, adding that strong mitigation measures were in place.

‘Serious consequences’

"About 40% of the domestic seat capacity of India is powered by Neo engines and therefore, any knee-jerk reaction to completely shut their operations will have serious consequences... with strong mitigation measures in place and strict adherence to SOPs by the airlines, the problem is being contained," the Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a press statement following an emergency meeting with IndiGo and GoAir.

There are 127 P&W-powered engines in the country, out of a total of 436 planes. Of these, 92 are with IndiGo and 35 with GoAir.

It added, "we are alive to the situation and will take the strictest action possible".

IRDAI to review motor third-party targets

Forms group to identify ‘difficult’ areas

N.RAVI KUMAR

HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has decided to review the formula it applies to set motor third-party obligation targets that insurers have to meet every year.

The review is to be undertaken by an eight-member working group and may bring into focus a demand of insurers that the IRDAI should de-tariff TP premium or, in other words, permit them to decide the premium.

The demand of the insurers comes in the backdrop of traditionally motor TP not being profitable for the companies.

There are estimates of how a good number of automobiles on the road are plying without third party insurance though such a cover is mandatory as per law.

Comprising officials of the IRDAI as well as senior executives of a few general insurance firms – private as well public – the working group will identify areas of difficulty or concerns, including those relating to the formula in vogue.

It will review the framework of the obligations in the light of new developments such as long-term motor TP products.

Following a Supreme Court order, a five-year policy and a three-year policy have become mandatory for new two-wheelers and private cars respectively from last year.

The Working Group will also make recommendations regarding modifications that may be required to the current framework.

Ind-Ra cuts GDP growth forecast in FY20 to 6.7%

Agency pegs growth at six-year low

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India Ratings and Research has revised downwards its projection of the country's GDP growth in financial year 2019-20 to 6.7%, a six-year low, from its earlier forecast of 7.3%, the agency announced on Wednesday.

The agency expects FY20 to be the third consecutive year of subdued growth pushed by (i) a slowdown in consumption demand; (ii) delayed and uneven progress of monsoon so far; (iii) decline in manufacturing growth; (iv) inability of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to resolve cases in a time-bound manner, and (v) rising global trade tension adversely impacting exports," it said in a report.

IN BRIEF



Renault launches Triber at ₹4.95 lakh

CHENNAI Renault India has launched the Triber at a starting price of ₹4.95 lakh (ex-showroom, all India). The Triber will bridge the gap between the Kwid, the company's entry-level car, and its SUV offerings in India. The product will be available in four trims – RXE, RXL, RXT and RXZ. It has features such as easy-fix seats and SUV skid plates, among others, the company said in a statement.

IDBI Bank on S&P's credit watch; shares tank

MUMBAI IDBI Bank's shares tanked over 9.17% to ₹26.75 on the BSE after S&P Global Ratings placed 'BB' long-term and 'B' short-term foreign currency issuer credit ratings on 'Credit Watch' with negative implications. "IDBI is in breach of its regulatory capital requirements after a substantial loss in [Q1 of FY20]," the agency said. The bank's net loss widened 58% to ₹3,801 crore in Q1 mainly due to higher provisioning.

Doosan Bobcat Chennai plant begins operations

CHENNAI The Indian subsidiary of Doosan Bobcat Inc. commenced the commercial operations of its first manufacturing facility in India at Gummudipoondi, near Chennai. Initially, the company will produce backhoe loaders completely designed and developed by its engineering team based in Chennai. Doosan Bobcat India plans to invest ₹190 crore over the next five years, the company said in a statement.

Moody's downgrades Yes Bank

Cites decline in share price, lower-than-expected funds raised as reasons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday downgraded Yes Bank's long-term foreign-currency issuer rating to Ba3 from Ba1.

"The outlook on the bank's ratings, where applicable, is negative," the rating agency said. With this, Moody's has concluded the rating review process of the private sector bank that was initiated in June.

The rating downgrade is due to the lower-than-expected amount of capital raised by the bank recently and the risk that substantial decline in the bank's share price will challenge its ability to raise sufficient capital to maintain the rating at its previous level, Moody's said. In the last one year, Yes Bank's

IN FREE FALL



shares have tanked around 84%. Earlier this month, the bank had raised ₹1,930 crore through the qualified institutions placement (QIP) route. Moody's said the QIP would moderately improve the bank's reported common

equity tier-1 ratio of 8% as of June 30, 2019, to 8.6%.

"Moody's expects the bulk of Yes Bank's operating profits will get consumed by loan loss provisions over the next 12-18 months, and thus not support internal capital

generation." This would leave the bank dependent on external capital raising to improve its loss-absorbing buffers, which is becoming more challenging given the substantial decline in its share price, it added.

Yes Bank's asset quality deteriorated in the quarter ended June 2019, with its gross non-performing loan ratio rising to 5%, from 3.2% at the end of March.

"The negative outlook reflects the risk of further deterioration in the bank's solvency, funding or liquidity, as the bank continues to work through the asset quality issues and rebuilds its loss absorbing buffers," the agency added.

Shares of the bank fell 7.5% to ₹59.50 on the BSE on Wednesday.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank managing director tenders resignation

Exact reason for the move is not clear

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Parthasarathi Mukherjee, the MD and CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB), tendered his resignation, the private sector lender said in a regulatory filing.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Mukherjee merely confirmed that he had resigned. He did not elaborate.

"The board met today and approved an increase in the authorised capital from ₹500 crore to ₹650 crore and a further raising of working capital i.e. ₹500 crore by way of debt and ₹1,000 crore by way of equity," he added.

"The board meeting, which started at noon, lasted for nearly five hours,"



proved the merger of the two entities.

In June, the Competition Commission of India had given its nod for the proposed scheme of amalgamation of IHFL and Indiabulls Commercial Credit Ltd. with LVB. Approval for the merger is pending with the RBI.

IBHF's shareholders will own 90.5% of the proposed amalgamated entity, while LVB shareholders will hold the remaining 9.5%. Shares of the bank lost 4.9% on Wednesday to close at ₹40.75 on the BSE.

For FY19, the lender had posted a loss of ₹894 crore against a loss of ₹585 crore for FY18 due to a large slippage in NPAs, according to a BSE filing.

LG eyes ₹2,000 cr. from B2B segment in 2019

May foray into solar business in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Government of India is the biggest consumer of LG's display business

ers two solutions under the B2B segment – display and air-conditioning. Mr. Sinha said the company was also planning to bring its solar business to India for which market research was currently on.

For LG, the Centre is the biggest consumer of its display business. On the impact of slowdown on government buying, Mr. Sinha said: "We haven't seen any slowdown as such. In the past two months, the buying has been slow because of elections etc., but that is showing signs of recovery."

LG Electronics India's B2B segment currently accounts for about 10% of the company's total revenue from the country with a major portion coming from its consumer business.

Skore forays into sexual wellness segment with new product range

Aims to more than double growth to 25% in three years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Skore, a prophylactic brand under TTK Healthcare Ltd., is aiming to more than double its growth to 25% in the next three years by entering into the sexual wellness segment. It has also set aside ₹3 crore towards advertising.

"To achieve this goal, we are foraying into the sexual wellness segment with a new range of products for couples," Vishal Vyas, general manager – marketing, protective devices division, TTK Healthcare Ltd., said.

"We have already launched OH, a water-based gel for women. For men, we will be soon launching three new products, including a



Vishal Vyas

pheromone-activated body spray," he said.

Huge potential

Mr. Vyas said that the global sexual wellness industry was set to grow from \$27 billion in 2015 to \$50 billion by 2020. India had a huge po-

tential in sexual wellness products across metros and other markets and Skore was planning to ramp up in this segment to be ahead of the curve, he added.

Quoting Nielsen Retail data for December 2018, he said Skore posted 11.5% growth. While a majority of sales came from urban cities, Skore also saw 16.1% rise in revenue from tier 2 cities. With the foray into the sexual wellness segment, Skore was aiming for 25% growth, he added.

Asserting that it was the second-largest condom brand with a market share of 9.2%, he said the aim was to capture 15% in this segment in the next five years.

coffee, chocolate and breakfast cereals, among other food items, has seen its share price jump nearly 13% in the last three months. On Wednesday, Nestle India shares gained 0.33% to close at ₹2,514.70 on the BSE.

An inclusion in the indices, especially the benchmark Sensex and Nifty, typically attracts investment in the stock from passive funds who mirror the index constituents in their funds.

This is the first revision of the Nifty after the exchange approved the inclusion of permitted category companies – entities that are not directly listed on NSE – in the indices. Nestle India falls under the permitted category of companies on the NSE.

Nestle India to be included in Nifty index

It replaces Indiabulls Housing Finance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The National Stock Exchange will remove Indiabulls Housing Finance from the benchmark Nifty index and will replace it with Nestle India. The changes in the index would come into effect from September 27.

Indiabulls Housing Finance has seen a massive fall in its valuation with its stock price falling from ₹1,300-levels a year back to ₹457 on Wednesday. Incidentally, housing finance entities and non banking finance companies (NBFCs) have been in the midst of a liquidity crisis in the last few months.

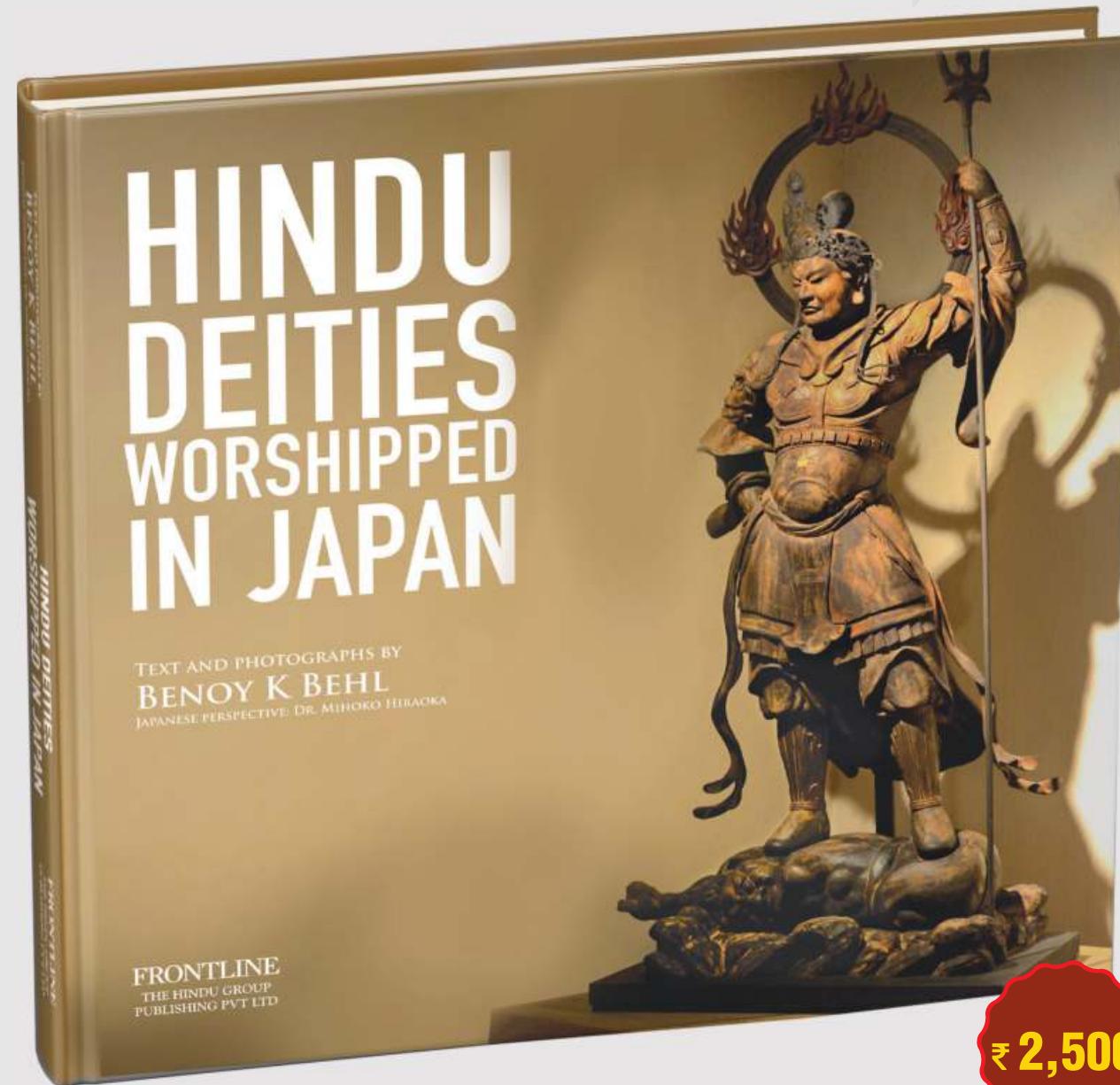
Meanwhile, Nestle India, which sells milk, noodles,

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

This coffee-table book opens a window to the practice of Buddhism in Japan, right from its arrival in that country 1,000 years ago to its growth through the worship of deities of Indian origin. Benoy Behl's images illuminate the pages and present an invaluable account of Japan's links with Hinduism and with its Buddhist past

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CM YK

AN-ND-E



VASUNDHARA RATHI

Since 2000, *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC) has been entertaining millions of Indians all over the country. The reality television show, now in its eleventh season, has had a single director behind the camera all this time. *Metro-Plus* spoke with Arun Sheshkumar to get a sense of what it means to call the shots on KBC, a staple in the TV viewing diet of Indian audiences. "It's a real show," says the director with evident passion for his work. "It connects with millions of Indians and gives a platform to people to come and share their stories, knowledge and make a difference to their lives."

While adapting an international format to Indian television, the biggest challenge for Sheshkumar was to make the show appeal to Indian audiences while preserving its popular format. "We had the vision of Siddhartha Basu, who is by far the best quizmaster India has ever produced," says the director.

Each season also brings something new by way of technology, use of camera techniques,

Lights, camera and crores to win

Arun Sheshkumar on 11 seasons of directing *Kaun Banega Crorepati*, working with Amitabh Bachchan and favourite moments on set

lighting or set design. "We have to make it look different each year without ruining the sanctity of the show," he adds. But after all these years and over 700 episodes, Sheshkumar has yet to get used to being around host Amitabh Bachchan. "I don't see anybody else who can do what he does," he says. "A perfectionist, passionate and punctual are the three Ps that Mr. Bachchan embodies." The veteran actor's enthusiasm has been an inspiration for the show's crew to work harder than the previous

season. "It becomes a bit challenging since he's expecting a certain degree of perfection. We work hard so that he has a good journey while shooting the whole season because Mr. Bachchan is KBC," the director emphasises.

Listening to and learning from each contestants' struggles and triumphs has become one of the most enriching experiences for Sheshkumar. To showcase these special stories, the show's latest season features 'Karamveer'. One such contestant has been Afroz

Shah, responsible for changing the face of Versova beach in Mumbai. Bachchan was so inspired by his work that he invited the crew to go to Versova one Sunday morning to help Shah and personally contribute in any way he could.

Sound advice
KBC has always had a constant stream of celebrities who face tough questions on the hot seat for charity or when a new release is around the corner. Sheshkumar and his team often have to come

One piece of advice that has helped me through my journey is to stay grounded

ARUN SHESHKUMAR
Director

Long journey It's been 19 years and director Arun Sheshkumar (right) is yet to get used to being around Amitabh Bachchan

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

up with new ideas to keep audiences intrigued. One such episode guest starred Shah Rukh Khan.

"We don't get to see these two stalwarts interacting on camera so casually," remembers the director fondly adding that it was a surreal experience. "The camaraderie that they share was amazing, the stories that [Khan] had about Mr. Bachchan, and [the former] being his charming self got a lot out of Mr. Bachchan." Another time, Abhishek Bachchan came on the show and took up the role of the host asking his father some questions. "It was so much fun to see the son play the father's role," laughs Sheshkumar.

With a television career spanning 18 years, Sheshkumar has worked on most of the popular Hindi reality shows like *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*, *Satyamev Jayate* and *India's Got Talent*. When asked what his advice would be to aspiring professionals, he is quick to state that all he can share are his experiences. "One piece of advice that has helped me through my journey is to stay grounded," he says. "Success can really go to your head!" He also added that one is always learning in this industry and it should never stop. "Hard work, passion and honesty will help any aspiring director to be where someone want to be," he concludes.

REEL-LIFE WINNER

Jamal, the protagonist of the Oscar-winning 'Slumdog Millionaire', is a participant of 'Who Wants to Be A Millionaire' and goes on to answer all the questions correctly.



Colour me bad Bright hues warn potential predators

■ ABHISHEK GULSHAN

several other insects.

Legend has it that the Blister Beetle played a significant role in helping Mithridates, the king of Anatolia, become the Roman Empire's most formidable enemy. He ingested small amounts of cantharidin, with a mix of antidotes, so he could develop a resistance towards most types of poisons. In our context though, it's best not to make a meal out of Blister Beetles. The best way to enjoy the antics of these creatures is from a comfortable distance.

The writer is the founder of NINOX - Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at WWF India.



PEOPLE

Dram stories

Balvenie, the Speyside single malt Scotch distillery, is recording the stories of the people behind its whiskies



Stories are the new luxury. They have been, for a while now, and that narrative is getting richer. From couture to whisky, tales of tradition, of process, of the brand's smallness or largeness build 'engagement'. There's interest in making people feel like they're a part of something with heart, something bigger than 'just a product'.

In June, Balvenie, the single malt whisky distillery in Dufftown, Scotland, formally started one such campaign, called The Balvenie Stories. The effort involves a book of original short stories, *Pursuit: The Balvenie Stories Collection* (available on pre-order) and a podcast called The Balvenie Stories series (on Apple Music and Spotify), by Gemma Paterson, one of their global brand ambassadors.

Paterson talks to the people involved in the processes at their distillery – this includes the likes of Ian McDonald, the brand's head cooper, who recently marked fifty years of making casks and barrels for them. She also speaks to younger people, like Kelsey McKechnie, who in her early 20s is an Apprentice Malt Master for the brand.

In India this week, Paterson tells us about taking the endeavour offline. Edited excerpts from an interview:

Why did the idea to document stories even come up?

At the distillery we have so many craftspeople who have amazing stories to tell. These are people who've dedicated their lives and careers to making the whisky. One of the stories we're telling is about Ian, our head cooper, who started in 1969 with us, when he was only 15. We've worked out that he's made a quarter of a million barrels [over this time]. That's 75 million bottles on average, coming from barrels he's made with his own hands!

He's trained and mentored so many apprentices through his career. He's come up with ideas, to make new whisky. Our 14 Caribbean Cask – that's the one that's very popular in India – wouldn't exist if it wasn't for Ian having the idea to start to experiment with bringing in rum casks.

A big part of what we're doing is taking these stories, documenting them, so future generations have access to them. We're a fifth generation family-run company...and if we don't do it now, it will all be lost.

You're telling these stories in different countries. This is beyond internal record-keeping...

For sure. It's important for the industry in general too. In Scotland we have what's called *ceilidh*, meaning an evening of drinking, storytelling, socialising, and dancing. They're all linked. So it's important to have these stories to share, over a whisky.

What are you doing with the stories in India?

I work with a storytelling group in the UK called The Empress Collective, and they have a guitarist who plays music to storytelling, so we've been working together to develop that for Balvenie. [In India], we have a flautist [Nikhil Kumar], who handcrafts his own flutes.

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

PRODUCT

Stitching softness

Anjul Bhandari, who launched her brand with the same name in 2012, with a focus on Lakhnavi Chikankari and Kamdani embroidery, has her new bridal collection out. This season, she's introducing new elements on her lehenga sets, saris and anarkalis: tiny, precision-cut Japanese glass beads, Swarovski, baby pearls and other delicate accents that go with traditional designs. This year, the Lucknow-based designer has introduced a new motif: chinai leaves, along with traditional designs.



The Chikankari artisans are mostly men, while Kamdani employs mainly women. While the former was traditionally done with white cotton thread, today, silk thread is also employed. Kamdani, also called badla or mukaish, is a metal embroidery. Thin metal strips are sewn on to the fabric and fashioned into small sparkling dots to give Chikankari a little sparkle. On her saris, she also has ek and do taar (single and double metal wire) embroidery.

Colours are pastel: ivory, white, hydro, blush pink, old rose, baby blue, mint and sage green.

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5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CONCERT

Rhythm and blues

IIC and New Zealand High Commission are together organising a music concert called Coming Home: Aaradhna in India, by award-winning R & B artist from New Zealand, Aaradhna. With four studio albums to her credit, she is currently working on her fifth, which she plans to release in India.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

Authentic Japanese

Elan, a restaurant that serves South East Asian food, has an all-new signature menu, A Taste of Japan. The Japanese chef, Noboru Ozeki has curated a range of authentic dishes including Seaweed Salad, Maguro and Unagi Sashimi, Hamachi Carpaccio, Nigiri, Tuna Tartar, and more. On until August 31st.

VENUE: Elan, The Lodhi, Lodhi Road

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



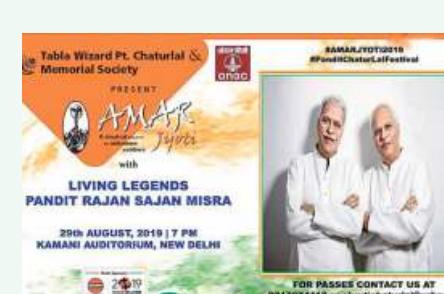
DANCE

Krishna in Kathak

Kathak exponent Asavari Pawar and her Kalaashish Repertory will present a recital about Krishna's facets and pranks. The performing dancers include Abhishek Khichi, Mayukh Bhattacharya, Heena Wasen, Tripti Sanwal, and Madhusmita Handique. Music by Naushad Ahmed, and others.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



MUSIC

Jugalbandi

The annual Amar Jyoti Festival, organised by the Pandit Chatur Lal Memorial Society, is underway. The yearly festival is a tribute to the many soldiers who died on the front. Performances this year include a vocal recital by Pt. Rajan and Sajan Misra and a sitar and cello jugalbandi by Pandit Shubhendra Rao and Saska Rao-De Haas.

VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House

TIME: 7 p.m.



GIG

Milo Spykers live

Imperfecto Shor Club is hosting Milo Spykers with Techno live tonight. Spykers, a Belgian dance-techno music DJ and producer, is best known for his albums like *Infinite* and *Observable 93*. He has previously performed at a number of prominent music events in Europe such as OFFSonar, Extrema Outdoor Belgium.

VENUE: Hotel Pride Plaza, Asset 5A, Aerocity

TIME: 10 p.m. onwards

Nadal up and running in quick time

Thiem and Tsitsipas' campaigns cut short; Nishikori and Pliskova make the third round

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Rafael Nadal launched his tilt at a fourth U.S. Open title on Tuesday with a swift defeat of John Millman as other leading seeds in his half of the draw tumbled out in the first round.

Four players in the world's top 10 – Dominic Thiem, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Karen Khachanov and Roberto Bautista Agut – lost to ease Nadal's potential path to the final.

The Spanish second seed – champion in 2010, 2013 and 2017 – needed barely two hours to see Millman off 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 at Arthur Ashe Stadium with the World No. 60 from Australia unable to reproduce the magic that saw him stun Roger Federer here a year ago.

"The beginning, the first match, is always a little bit new even if I've played here plenty of times," said Nadal. "I think I played well and in general am very happy with the way I started."

Two-time French Open runner-up Thiem was upset by Italian giant-killer Thomas Fabbiano 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, the Austrian fourth seed slumping to another first-round exit, having lost at the same stage at Wimbledon.

Finding fault
Greek eighth seed Tsitsipas struggled with cramps and accused umpires of having "preferences" after he fell to a 6-4, 6-7(5), 7-6(7), 7-5 defeat by Next Gen rival Andrey Rublev on Wednesday.

Czech third seed Pliskova, seeking her first Grand Slam title and the top ranking, ousted 202nd-ranked Georgian qualifier Mariam Bolkvadze 6-1, 6-4.



Giant-killer: Thomas Fabbiano produced one of the big upsets by taking out fourth seed Dominic Thiem on Tuesday. • AP

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: 7-Ken Nishikori (Jpn) bt Bradley Klahn (USA) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. **First round:** Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt 8-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 6-7(5), 7-6(7), 7-5; 24-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt Richard Gasquet (Fra) 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; 13-Gael Monfils (Fra) bt Albert Ramos (Esp) 7-6(2), 6-4, 6-3; Denis Shapovalov (Can) bt 18-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-1, 6-1, 6-4; Pablo Andujar (Esp) bt 30-Kyle Edmund (GBr) 3-6, 7-6(1), 7-5, 5-7, 6-2; Thomas Fabbiano (Ita) bt 4-Dominic Thiem (Aut) 6-4,

3-6, 6-3, 6-2; 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Radu Albot (Mda) 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2; 29-Benoit Paire (Fra) bt Brayden Schnur (Can) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4; 20-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Robin Haase (Ned) 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-0; Tennys Sandgren (USA) bt Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (Fra) 1-6, 6-7(2), 6-4, 7-6(5), 7-5; Vasek Pospisil (Can) bt 9-Karen Khachanov (Rus) 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; 14-John Isner (USA) bt Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (Esp) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; 32-Fernando Verdasco (Esp) bt 10-Dominic Thiem (Aut) 6-3, 6-1,

6-2; 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt John Millman (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 28-Nick Kyrgios (Aus) bt Steve Johnson (USA) 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Women: Second round: 3-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Mariam Bolkvadze (Geo) 6-1, 6-4. **First round:** Magda Linette (Pol) bt Astra Sharma (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; Timea Babos (Hun) bt 28-Carla Suarez Navarro (Esp) 6-2, 0-0, retd.; 21-Anett Kontaveit (Est) bt Sara Sorribes (Esp) 6-1, 6-1; 4-Simona Halep (Rou) bt Nicole Gibbs (USA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; Aliona Bolsova

(Esp) bt 31-Barbora Strycova (Cze) 6-3, 0-6, 6-1; 19-Caroline Wozniacki (Den) bt Wang Yafan (Chn) 1-6, 7-5, 6-3; 15-Bianca Andreescu (Can) bt Katie Volynets (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Alison Riske (USA) bt 24-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) 2-6, 6-1, 6-3; 25-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Jil Teichmann (Sui) 6-2, 6-2; 23-Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Richel Hogenkamp (Ned) 7-6(4), 6-3, 9-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Victoria Azarenka (Blr) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Anna Kalinskaya (Rus) bt 11-Sloane Stephens (USA) 6-3, 6-4.

Uninspired Tsitsipas lashes out at umpire
Stefanos Tsitsipas called an umpire a "weirdo" after being told to hurry back onto court during his first-round loss to Andrey Rublev on Tuesday and later said he was struggling for inspiration in his game. "You are the worst. For some reason, you have something against me, I don't know what. Because you're French probably. And you're all weirdos. You're all weirdos," the 21-year-old shouted. REUTERS



'Grown-ups do grown-up things': Stephens

Sloane Stephens refused to draw into a spat with Monica Puig after coach Kamau Murray split with the former US Open winner recently. "I've seen some of the things that were said. I think that grown-ups do grown-up things. We should leave it in the past and we should move on. It doesn't have anything to do with me, so... Her side is her side," Stephens added. AFP



Nadal offers boat to Murray for Mallorca stay

Rafael Nadal revealed on Tuesday he had offered to provide Andy Murray with his boat in Mallorca, where the Scot is playing in a second-tier Challenger event as part of his comeback following hip surgery. "I'm very happy to have Andy Murray playing there," Nadal said. "It's great news for us... I just texted him a couple days ago saying, 'If you need anything, just let me know. You want to go out with the boat or anything, I can help you, just let me know!'" AFP

Riske's Bollywood dance moves, a superhit

Alison Riske has made her name in tennis, but her biggest claim to fame might be the Bollywood dance moves from her wedding last month that became an internet sensation. Riske, playing in her first Grand Slam after getting married to Stephen Amirraj, the son of former India tennis player Anand Amirraj, said: "the whole weekend was awesome, just to have everyone that we love together – it was really special. There were so many highlights. I think my Bollywood dance went off well."

After blow on neck, Smith thought of Hughes

"These things happen and unfortunately missed what was a pretty amazing Test"

THE ASHES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith thought about his late teammate Phil Hughes right after being hit on the neck by England paceman Jofra Archer in the second Ashes Test.

Bit of past
"I had a few things running through my head, particularly where I got hit, just a bit of past came up, if you know what I mean, from a few years ago. That was probably the first thing I thought about," Smith told reporters in Derby referring to Hughes who passed away after being hit by a bouncer in a 2014 Sheffield Shield match.

Smith was found to have delayed concussion.

"It wasn't until later that evening that it hit me. When the doc asked me what did it feel like I said it felt like I had six beers last night and felt a little bit under the weather, without the six beers unfortunately."

"That was the sort of feeling I got, that groggy feeling



Eerie feeling: Steve Smith recalled that following the nasty blow off Jofra Archer, it felt like he had had too much alcohol. • AFP

and that stuck around for a couple of days. Not a nice place to be in but these things happen and unfortunately missed what was a pretty amazing Test match," he said.

With Ben Stokes playing one of the best Test match innings, England pulled off a one wicket win in Leeds, levelling the five-match series at 1-1.

'Not going to change'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Steve Smith is expecting a lot of short balls to be directed at him in the fourth Test, but said he will not change the way he bats against Archer.

"If they're bowling up there it means they can't nick me off, or hit me on the pad or hit the stumps. With the Dukes ball, I don't know, that's an interesting ploy. I'm not changing anything."

Paul replaces Cummins for Jamaica Test

IANS
ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

All-rounder Keemo Paul has replaced fast bowler Miguel Cummins in the West Indies' 13-member squad for the second Test against India, starting on Friday in Jamaica.

Paul, who missed the first Test due to an ankle injury, is now available for selection, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said in a statement.

The squad: Jason Holder (captain), Kraigg Braithwaite, Darren Bravo, Shammar Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Rakheem Cornwall, Jahmar Hamilton, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Keemo Paul, Kemar Roach.

Haryana Steelers' merry run continues

Facile win over Fortunegiants pushes them to the third spot

PKL

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Haryana Steelers, with Vikas Kandola excelling again, defeated Gujarat Fortunegiants 41-25 for its third win here on Wednesday. Apart from attack, Fortunegiants were also overpowered by Steelers' defence.

Kandola (eight points), Prashanth Kumar Rai (eight points) and Ravi Kumar, with a High 5 (six tackle points), led an all-round performance from the Steelers, which moved them to the third spot.

Three minutes into the game, Gujarat was reduced to five men but a successful



Doing his bit: Vikas Kandola scoring a point for Haryana Steelers. • SANDEEP SAXENA

raid by Abolfazl Maghsodlu-mahall put Dharamaraj Cheralathan and Vikas Kale out. In the process Fortunegiants' Maghsodlu-mahall registered 150 points in the

PKL and Rohit Guila 150 raid points.

It took 15 minutes for the

Giants to get their first tackle point of the match, when Rituraj Koravi tackled Kan-

dola. Thrice in the match Steelers inflicted an all-out on Fortunegiants. The first half score saw Steelers leading 20-11.

When play resumed, Guja-

rat got its first super tackle point when Gurunath More tackled Kandola, sending him to the bench. In the process More registered 150 points in the league.

It was apparent Steelers

were dragging Giants to a de-

feat, leading 38-18 with just

six minutes left.

Steelers was down to just

one man with 16 seconds re-

maining but that didn't mat-

ter because they had already

sealed the win.

The results: Haryana Steelers 41 (Vikas Kandola 8, Prashanth Kumar Rai 8) bt Gujarat Fortunegiants 25 (Abolfazl Maghsodlu-mahall 4, Gurunath More 4).

Dabang Delhi 40 (Naveen Kumar 11, Ravinder Pahal 8) bt U Mumba 24 (Arjun Deswal 7, Sandeep Narwal 6).

PASSING SHOTS



Uninspired Tsitsipas lashes out at umpire
Stefanos Tsitsipas called an umpire a "weirdo" after being told to hurry back onto court during his first-round loss to Andrey Rublev on Tuesday and later said he was struggling for inspiration in his game. "You are the worst. For some reason, you have something against me, I don't know what. Because you're French probably. And you're all weirdos. You're all weirdos," the 21-year-old shouted. REUTERS



'Grown-ups do grown-up things': Stephens

Sloane Stephens refused to draw into a spat with Monica Puig after coach Kamau Murray split with the former US Open winner recently. "I've seen some of the things that were said. I think that grown-ups do grown-up things. We should leave it in the past and we should move on. It doesn't have anything to do with me, so... Her side is her side," Stephens added. AFP



Nadal offers boat to Murray for Mallorca stay

Rafael Nadal revealed on Tuesday he had offered to provide Andy Murray with his boat in Mallorca, where the Scot is playing in a second-tier Challenger event as part of his comeback following hip surgery. "I'm very happy to have Andy Murray playing there," Nadal said. "It's great news for us... I just texted him a couple days ago saying, 'If you need anything, just let me know. You want to go out with the boat or anything, I can help you, just let me know!'" AFP

A chance for the hopefults to impress

India-A takes on South Africa-A in the first unofficial one-dayer today

SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa-A's tour of India holds significant interest for fringe players from both countries to be on their selectors' radar as the series kicks off with the first 'unofficial' one-dayer at the Sports Hub, Kariavattom, on Thursday.

South Africa-A is essentially a recce party with a handful of experienced internationals who will be testing the conditions in the sub-continent before the series against India in October.

After the retirement of stalwarts Hashim Amla and J.P. Duminy and post the World Cup, South African cricket finds itself in transition. The selectors will be looking keenly at this tour – which comprises five one-dayers and two four-day Tests – to find out players for the future.

Captain Temba Bavuma

said the tour will be impor-

tant for his players to get

used to alien conditions. He

added there was no better

place than India at the mo-



Gearing up: Vijay Shankar, Khaleel Ahmed and Shardul Thakur go through the paces ahead of the series opener. • COURTESY BCCI

ment to test the skills and ability.

A few players like Heinrich Klassen, who was a last-minute replacement in the South African Test squad to India, Reza Hendricks and Beuran Hendricks will want to use this opportunity to put their stuttering international career on the right track.

Firepower

Bavuma believes his side has enough firepower to stand up to the collective expe-

rience of India internationals.

Coaching, like teaching, is a thankless job: Vimal Kumar

The former National badminton champion feels that players should take more responsibility and be less dependent on mentors

DRONACHARYA

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Despite a successful playing career, U. Vimal Kumar never received the Arjuna award. However, after over two decades spent coaching and grooming players such as P. Gopi Chand, Aparna Popat and P. Kashyap at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy here, there is recognition finally in the form of the prestigious Dronacharya award.

The 57-year-old spoke to *The Hindu* ahead of Thursday's awards ceremony. Excerpts

Your thoughts on the award?
I am quite happy with it. I wasn't expecting it and wasn't even aware that the process was on. But everybody likes recognition and I am no different.

You didn't get the Arjuna Award as a player. So how important or big is this?

I have always felt that awards shouldn't be asked for. Back then, BAI wasn't very happy with me shifting to England for a majority of my playing

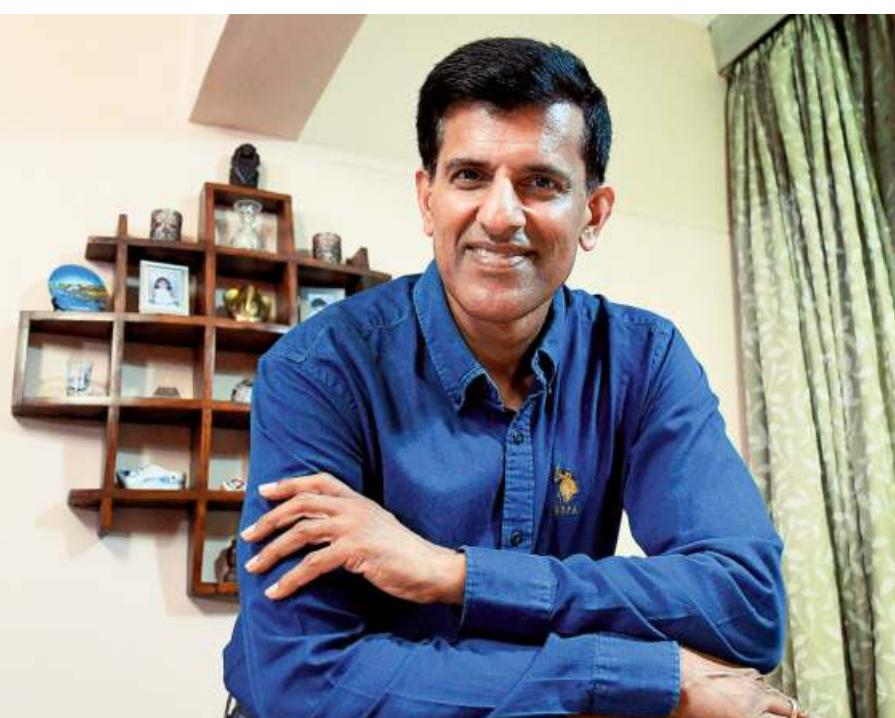
career. I still played for India for nearly 14 years, including the Olympics and Asian Games. But somehow it didn't work.

When I was young, I felt bad, but [not now]. Even if I had not received the Dronacharya, it wouldn't have affected me because it is all for just one week and then it is forgotten.

I could actually understand the feelings of H.S. Prannoy [when he didn't get Arjuna]. But I told him that that was not the time to look for an award, in the middle of the World Championships. I feel awards, like Arjuna, should be given in the twilight of your career. Saina [Nehwal] got the Padma Bhushan but she was upset the first time she didn't get it. I told her that she had a long way to go. Milkha Singh was never given an Arjuna award!

The youngsters need to be patient. Does coaching big players add weight? Saina came under your wings when she was already an Olympic medallist...

Saina's training at the Prakash Academy did make a difference to her game. She could get a medal at the Worlds after a low phase in her career. But that doesn't mean you get a Dronacharya for that. Just because you have coached somebody big, you don't get it.



Recognition, at last! Vimal Kumar, who has groomed players like Gopi Chand, Aparna Popat and P. Kashyap, among others, has been chosen for the highest honour. • G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

Some coaches are good at the primary level, some at the intermediate and others at the advanced stages. All these coaches should be recognised. This is currently not happening in India. Even

primary school teachers are forgotten. Only the IIMs and IITs get [recognised]. This should change.

What are the aspects of a good coach?

As a coach, what I have learnt is that we shouldn't make players too dependent on us. You have to help them take responsibility and tell them, 'success, failure... everything is on you. We are behind you and can only guide.' The players' mindset is like this: they will ask for 100 things. You give them all 100 but they will find the 101st thing to harp on. But I always stress on them taking responsibility. Also, when there is a small success, we shouldn't hype it up. We should keep them grounded.

How did you go about

acquiring these? I started coaching in England when I was just 22. As part of my Slazenger contract, I had to devote 15 days' time for coaching youngsters. I also learnt a lot from Tom John who was in England then. He was a tough taskmaster. I was staying with him and then one fine morning he said, 'now you need to be on your own'. I didn't know where to go.

I applied to an Italian restaurant very close to the Wimbledon club where I used to practise. I worked as a waiter daily from 6 p.m. to midnight. All the big tennis stars, Martina [Navratilova], [John] McEnroe, would come and we would fight to serve them because you could get extra tips! So you basically took more responsibility of yourself, unlike now when most things are spoon-fed. We were better organised, I would say. And these things helped me in my coaching.

Prakash Padukone influenced you as a player. How much of it helped you in coaching? He was our idol, a self-taught, self-made guy. A lot of his views on playing and coach-

ing we still follow. For example, he never worried about the things he didn't have, like the fitness or the speed of the Chinese and Indonesians. But he was clever and still dictated the pace, controlled rallies and had a good net game. When we started the academy, this is what he stressed on – to not lose things that come naturally. Of course, you should add things to your game, but to not lose what you have is one principle I still insist on.

How have players' expectations from coaches changed over the years?

This generation wants coaches to be with them 24x7. During matches, during practice, etc. I don't agree with that. Also, as a coach, you shouldn't hold on to players. You need to understand that players have short careers. When Saina told me that she wanted to go back to Hyderabad and give it a try with the Indonesian coach, I appreciated that. Sometimes it can hurt you, but coaching, like teaching, is a thankless job. You can't be sentimental about it.

Gagan rewarded for igniting wave of interest

Has spread shooting across India and helped youngsters reach world standards

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

He is one of the most accomplished and decorated sportsmen in the country. Former World and Olympic medalist Gagan Narang was bestowed the Arjuna award in 2005 and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2011.

On Thursday, Gagan will have the unique distinction of getting the Khel Protsahan award from the President at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, for spreading shooting sport across the country and giving direction to the youngsters to reach world standards in a short time.

Special recognition
"This award is special. It is a recognition for giving back to the system and to the sport. The focus has been to help the shooters with better performances and also to broadbase the sport. People had many questions, whether the sport was accessible, affordable," said Gagan, as he interacted with the media on the eve of the Arjuna award function.

Expressing gratitude to Lakshya for helping the Gagan Narang Sports Foundation



Unique award: The Khel Protsahan is a recognition for giving back to the sport, feels Gagan Narang. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion with an initial investment of ₹20 lakh, Gagan recalled that he had put all his cash awards from the Commonwealth Games to set the 'Gun for Glory' ball rolling, along with Pawan Singh.

"The 20 shooters that we worked on initially went on to win 60 international medals. That motivated us to expand and reach out to talented juniors in other parts of the country."

"With whatever money we have, we try to support talented shooters," said Gagan.

Not an easy sport

Shooting is not that easy a sport to practise, owing to the cost of the equipment and other procedures. And once somebody buys a rifle for about two lakhs, he gets stuck with the sport for a few years, irrespective of his ability or interest.

"I had faced many hurdles in my journey as a shooter. Now, when you have a system, you cut a lot of time,

and help the juniors achieve world standards quicker. What we did in 10 years, these kids achieve in three or four years. Now, anyone can just walk in and start in the sport without spending much money," said Gagan who has 11 centres across the country in eight States.

The process has also helped a lot of former shooters to get into coaching and guide the juniors more efficiently.

Expecting better fare
With the system streamlined nicely, and with the government and national federation playing their part well, Gagan was confident that the Indian shooters would fare much better in the Tokyo Olympics next year, and wipe the disappointment of having drawn a blank in Rio in 2016.

On a lighter note about his shooting and highlighting the quality of performance reached by the rest, Gagan said that he would need a miracle to make the Indian team for the Asian championship that offers the final set of Olympic quota places for Tokyo.

Fouad Mirza eyes Olympic qualification

Injury to Asian Games silver-winning horse makes his task difficult

EQUESTRIAN

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Riding on optimism, Fouad Mirza is looking beyond the injury to his preferred mount and preparing two other horses to help him qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Winner of individual and team silver medals in the last Asian Games, Mirza is in the Capital to receive the Arjuna Award on Thursday.

Loss of motivation

Talking about Olympic qualification in the background of the setback received following a ligament injury to his silver medal-winning horse, Seigneur Medicott, Mirza revealed, "Though I remained driven, I lost motivation when Medicott was injured. But I had no choice. Since I still have some time, I am training systematically with the other two horses, Fernhill Facetime and Touching Wood. I hope things go as per plans and we don't have injury issues."

Mirza, 27, trains under German coach, Olympic bronze medallist Bettina Hoy at Warendorf, Germany.



Overcoming an obstacle: Fouad Mirza, astride Seigneur Medicott at the 2018 Asian Games, is preparing diligently with two other steeds because of injury to his preferred mount. • FILE PHOTO

Talking about the Olympic field of about 65, Mirza said, "I think finishing in the top-20 would be a great achievement. We will have the best of riders on the best of mounts in the world. I hope things go as per plans and we don't have injury issues."

Mirza is also the first civilian to be nominated for the

Arjuna Award. Feeling humbled by the honour bestowed, Mirza said, "Arjuna award means the world to me. In fact, it means more to equestrian in the country."

Mirza said he was not sure how he would celebrate the honour since he was due to travel the following day to his training base in Germany.

He is scheduled to take part in an event in Poland next week.

"From now, my aim is to collect points each time I participate so that I qualify for Tokyo Olympics by the cut-off date (of December 31, 2019)," said Mirza who plans to take part in at least five disciplines in the remainder of the year.

'Better sense will prevail'

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

He was one of the star performers who captured the imagination of the people and made shooting such a vibrant sport in the Commonwealth Games.

Gagan Narang was hopeful that "better sense would prevail" and that shooting would be retained in the CWG in Birmingham in 2022.

The Birmingham organisers have repeatedly ruled out shooting from their schedule, but the Indian government and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) have been pursuing the subject with the hosts along with the support of the ISSF.

Boycott not fair
"A boycott of the CWG will not be fair on the other athletes. However, am sure that the NRAI, government and the ISSF are looking at all possible solutions to the situation," said Gagan.

He also pointed out that the ISSF was even offering financial assistance to conduct shooting to ensure that the sport continued to be part of the CWG.

With three years to go for the Games, it looks like the last word on shooting has not been said yet, even though time is running out.

Mendis calls it quits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis on Wednesday announced his retirement from all forms of the game.

The 34-year-old, who made his debut for Sri Lanka in 2008 and last played international cricket in 2015, took 288 wickets for his country across the three formats. Famous for his 'carrom ball', Mendis snapped up 70 wickets in 19 Tests, 152 in 87 ODIs and 66 in 39 T20Is, but he couldn't prolong his career due to injuries.

"Congratulations menda on a short but great career. Unfortunately injuries kept u away but god is kind and will open plenty of avenues to you. Stay blessed," former skipper Angelo Mathew wrote on Twitter.

Mendis, who last featured in an ODI against New Zealand in Christchurch, was the fastest to reach 50 ODI wickets and is the only bowler to take a six-wicket haul in T20Is twice.

The 34-year-old had burst onto the scene at the Asia Cup when he took six for 13



Ajantha Mendis. • AFP

as Sri Lanka notched up a 100-run win against India in the final in 2008. He received a Test call-up against India the same year and took 26 wickets in a three-match series at home which Sri Lanka won 2-1.

Dortmund sets sights on Indian market: Cramer

'We are talking to clubs to decide the right approach'

FOOTBALL

SATTWIK BISWAL
COLOGNE

India, as a football market, has great potential and Bundesliga giant Borussia Dortmund (BVB) wants to reach out by sending a legends team and also making a partnership with an Indian football club.

Carsten Cramer, managing director of BVB, on Friday confirmed that the legends game could happen in India next year.

Latest by next year

"The legends game is one we are on our way and could happen latest by next year. We have to make the decision of where to play and with whom - will it be a local legends team or international legends team."

"When we arrive with a legend or a professional team the crowd needs to be there. But for this to happen we need to be well prepared. It is a target definitely," Cramer said.

The 2010-11 and 2011-12 Bundesliga champion club is looking for a partner club in India, after having signed

more rumours to the table, but yes we are talking to clubs and then decide the right approach," Cramer confirmed.

It is an interesting market and Dortmund would like to do it in a certain way that fits the Indian people

partnerships in Thailand, China and Malaysia.

Not done by rumours

"I visited two clubs and don't want to talk about things that are not signed yet. Our business is not done by rumours, it is done by facts and commitment. At the moment, I won't bring

the legends team's visit could sound a precursor to BVB's visit to India next, but Cramer says it will take some time.

"It is an interesting market and Dortmund would like to do it in a certain way that fits the Indian people, with the focus on building and sustaining grassroots initiatives... The visit of our team will take some time," he said.

(The writer was in Germany on an invitation from Bundesliga)

Neymar features in Netflix drama

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Neymar announced on Tuesday he had "realised" his dream with a cameo appearance as a monk in his favourite Netflix show.

The Brazilian was originally edited out of two episodes of *La Casa de Papel* (Money Heist) by Netflix pending the outcome of his rape case.

Once Brazilian police dropped their investigation last month, Netflix re-released the episodes to include the Paris Saint-Germain forward, much to the 27-year-old's delight.

"I was able to realize my dream and be part of my favorite series."

"And now I can share Joao (his character) with



Back on air: The episodes of *La Casa de Papel* featuring Neymar were re-released after police dropped their investigation in his rape case. • AFP

THE AJANTHA FILE	M	Inn	W	BBI	BBM	Econ	SR	5w
Tests	19	31	70	6/99	10/209	3.08	67.5	4
ODIs	8							

TV PICKS

Cricket: India-A vs South Africa-A, first one-day match, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
KPL: Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
US Open tennis: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

Wassan to head senior selection panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former India speedster Atul Wassan returns to the Ferozeshah Kotla as chairman of the senior selection committee. He will have Anil Bhardwaj and Vineet Jain as co-selectors. The 51-year-old Wassan was head of the selection committee for the 2017-18 season when Delhi finished runner-up in the Ranji Trophy.

Bhardwaj, 65, played 40 matches for Orissa from 1975 to 1987, aggregating 1624 runs. Jain, a medium-pacer, played First Class cricket for Haryana and Tripura in a career lasting from 1993 to 2008.

The committees:
Senior: Atul Wassan (chairman), Anil Bhardwaj and Vineet Jain.
Junior: Mayank Tehlan (chairman), Chetan Sharma and Pradeep Chawla.



Atul Wassan. ■ FILE PHOTO

EB, Bagan post wins

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

East Bengal and Mohun Bagan registered contrasting wins in the Calcutta Football League premier division-A fixtures on Wednesday.

East Bengal blanked Aryan Club 3-0 at home for its second win, while defending champion Bagan had to work hard to down BSS Sporting Club 2-1 in the other match at Kalyani Stadium.

East Bengal found the lead three minutes before the interval when seasoned midfielder Lalrindika Ralte made the most of a cross from Brandon Vanlalremdika.

Striker Jaime Santos Colado doubled the lead just after the hour-mark when his 1-2 with Ralte created an opening in the Aryan box and he finished the move beating Kadir.

Santos made it 3-0 in the 89th minute to help East Bengal reach six points from three outings.

In the other contest, Salva Chamorro nodded home the lead for Bagan in the 31st minute, cashing in on a cross from Nongdomba Naorem.

Bagan's lead was soon neutralised by William Opoku, who got the equaliser for BSS Sporting in the 32nd minute. Nongdomba put Bagan ahead in the 47th minute and the side held on to the advantage to notch up its maiden win.

Sasi Kumar overpowers Yamasaki

INDIANS ABROAD

Sasi Kumar Mukund beat Jumpei Yamasaki of Japan 6-0, 6-2 in the second round of the \$54,060 Challenger tennis on Wednesday.

The results:
\$54,000 Challenger, Baotou, China: Singles (second round): Sasi Kumar Mukund bt Jumpei Yamasaki (Jpn) 6-0, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Haren, Netherlands: Singles (first round): Bart Stevens (Ned) bt Adil Kalyanpur 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles (pre-quarters): Kris-tian Tamm (Est) & Adil Kalyan-

Arpinder wins but falls short of Doha qualifying mark

Official, whose goof-up affected the triple jumper's performance, suspended for a year

INTER-STATE ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
LUCKNOW

He was the biggest hope to qualify for the World Championships from the 59th Inter-State athletics meet here but triple jumper Arpinder Singh fell short of the mark by 12 centimetres, a combination of factors not helping his cause.

Arpinder still managed 16.83 metres – his best this season and 4th best overall – but it wasn't enough for Doha (16.95m).

"It is disappointing. The hot, humid weather was not ideal but I was prepared for it. I was not prepared for seven jumps, though," he admitted.

Surprise second

Karnataka's Karthik U was the surprise runner-up with a massive 16.80m jump, followed by Mohd. Salahuddin, who managed 16.79m for his personal best.

The seven jumps were courtesy a goof-up by the technical officials during the event who abruptly changed the order of participation for the final round. Initially the last participant to complete a round, Arpinder was asked to be the first to complete his sixth and final jump.

"I kept telling them I was



Not a pleasant day: Champion triple jumper Arpinder Singh's agony at being unable to attain the Doha qualifying mark was compounded by a glaring error by an official. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to go last but they refused to listen. I had no time to even consult my coaches," Arpinder shrugged.

His final jump went for 16.80m before his coaches – Antony Yaich of JSW and National coach Bibhu Mathews – confronted the officials who accepted their mistake

and cancelled the jump allowing him to go again. By then, though, he was completely drained.

Emergency meeting
The AFI, meanwhile, held an emergency meeting late in the evening and decided to take strict action against the

erroneous officials.

Nupur, the technical official responsible for the goof-up has been suspended for one year from all meets by the AFI's technical committee that met to decide on the issue under the chairmanship of Ravinder Chaudhary. After a long period of con-

stantly changing coaches and training style, Arpinder has been training at JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports for the past four months and the difference was visible in both his technique and physique.

Ordinary display

It was also the only event where the medallists pushed each other to give their best on a day that saw another round of ordinary performances and below-par achievements.

Dharun Ayyasamy and Mohan Raja, the two federation entries in the 400m, had ordinary outings. The only other high point was Iranian Mahdi Pirjahan clocking 49.33s in the 400m hurdles, narrowly missing the Worlds mark (49.00) but managing to set a new meet record.

The results:

Men: 200m: Nithin (TN, 20.91s), 2. Akshay Nain (Del, 21.39), 3. Abhinav Panwar (Del, 21.47); **400m:** 1. Alex Antony (46.17), 2. Harsh Singh (Har, 46.64), 3. Sachin Rokey (Kar, 46.96); **800m:** 1. Mohammed P (Kar, 1:48.35), 2. Mujamil Ameen (TN, 1:49.03), 3. Ankit (Har, 1:49.95); **400m hurdles:** 1. Mahdi Pirjahan (Iri, 49.33), 2. Jagdeesh Chandra (Kar, 50.85), 3. Jithin Paul (Ker, 15.92); **Triple jump:** 1. Arpinder Singh (Pun, 16.83m), 2. Karthik U (Kar, 16.80), 3. Md. Salahuddin (TN, 16.79); **Shot put:** 1. Inderjeet Singh (Har, 19.73), 2. Jasdeep

NADA deputes officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Hindu's repeated attempts to highlight the absence of anti-doping officials here seem to have had the desired impact with NADA finally deputing a 5-member team for the remaining two days of the meet.

An official mail to the organisers late on Wednesday afternoon seeking technical support finally confirmed the visit. The mail names technical official Yogesh Sharma and Dope Control Officer Yashpreet Kaur from Delhi along with three local male scientists for collecting the samples. However, those who won medals across 19 disciplines on

the first two days are unlikely to be available for the same.

Interestingly, perhaps for the first time ever there was a public announcement of NADA officials arriving at a meet! The announcer even asked the medallists of the 19 disciplines, "to stay back in the city and give their samples on Thursday".

It now remains to be seen how many samples NADA is able to manage in the next days even though some of the big names in the fray – including triple jumper Arpinder Singh and quartermiler Dharun Ayyasamy – have already finished their events here.

Dhillon (Pun, 17.77), 3. Shakti Rathore (Raj, 17.20); **20km walk:** 1. Sandeep Kumar (Har, 1:27.50), 2. Irfan KT (Kar, 1:28.20); 3. Chandan Singh (Utk, 1:28.21); **Long jump:** 1. Nayana James (TN, 6.20m), 2. Priyanka Ker-ketta (Jha, 6.13m), 3. Harshini Saravanan (TN, 6.07m).

Women: 800m: 1. Chitra Unnikrishnan (Ker, 2:02.96s), 2. Jessy Joseph (Ker, 2:07.09), 3. Pramila Yadav (UP, 2:07.62); **400m hurdles:** 1. Arpitha Manjunatha (Kar, 59.98), 2. Aarthi (TN, 1:00.48), 3. Dhivya J (TN, 1:01.06); **20km walk:** 1. Sanjeev Kumar (Har, 1:27.50), 2. Irfan KT (Kar, 1:28.20); 3. Chandan Singh (Utk, 1:28.21); **Long jump:** 1. Dayavati (R) (TN, 6.20m), 2. Priyanka Ker-ketta (Jha, 6.13m), 3. Harshini Saravanan (TN, 6.07m).

India Green would strive to make it to the summit clash

India Red has already assured itself of a final spot

DULEEP TROPHY

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

India Green will look to earn a spot in the final of the Duleep Trophy when it takes on India Red in the third and final league game at the Alur grounds from Thursday.

Frustrating time
Faiz Fazal's India Green endured a frustrating time in the tournament's opening encounter at the Just Cricket ground earlier this month, when rain played spoilsport.

Only 49 overs of play were possible in total, with days two, three and four washed out.

In the little action that did unfold, Ishan Porel man-

aged to take three for 26 as Green reduced Blue to 112 for six. Both sides left the venue with a single point.

Twelve days later, Fazal's men will take the field again, hoping to earn the three points that will guarantee them a spot in the final.

The likes of Priyam Garg, who earlier this month captained India U-19 to victory in the Tri-Nation tournament in England, and Rahul Chahar, fresh from an India debut in the West Indies T20 series, will be eager to make an impression.

India Red, on the other hand, has already firmed up its berth in the day-night-tight clash after claiming three points against India Blue earlier this week.

Karun Nair and Ankit Kal-

sai starred with the bat as Red took the first-innings lead before the game meandered to a draw.

Nair made 99 and 166 n.o. in the first and second innings respectively, in the process recording a first-class century after a gap of nearly two years.

Able support
He was ably supported by Himachal Pradesh's Ankit Kalsi, who scored 106 and 64 in the two innings.

Jaydev Unadkat, Avesh Khan and Vidarbha spinner Akshay Wakhare all enjoyed good outings with the ball for India Red in that game and will hope to maintain that form.

A decent contest may be expected from Saturday, as long as both sets of players remain interested.

UTR tourney from Sept. 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The third leg of the Dreambig UTR tennis tournament will be held in Hyderabad from September 20 to 22.

According to Tushar Libheran, a former top junior tennis player who is organising the series, the tournament aims to provide junior tennis players of all levels with level-based competition, with the advantage of the Universal Tennis Rating (UTR).

The tournament, with a registration fee of \$60 will offer a minimum of three matches to a player on a league basis. Top performers from the boys' and girls' events will gain direct entry to the Silver series tennis camp. It will be a four-day event with a two-day UTR tournament and a two-day camp with tennis coaches from top US Colleges that offer scholarships to talented players.

3. B.K. KRISHNADEVARAJU URS MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m, rated 40 to 65, 4-y.o. & over, 3:00-3:30; 1. Air Command (S) John 60.5, 2. Mint (4) Azfar Syed 60.5, 3. Nikka (II) H.M. Akshay 60.5, 4. Take A Bow (2) Ajeet K 60.5, 5. Gypsies (I) Nazerul 60, 6. Roosevelt (I) Shivnath P 58.5, 7. Super Success (6) T.S. Jodha 58, 8. Turf Legend (7) Madhu Babu 58, 9. Al Dorado (10) Arshad 54.5, 10. Brooklyn Supreme (3) Chetan K 54.5, 11. His Eminence (9) N. Jodha 54.5, 12. Depth Charge (5) Rajesh K 54.5, 13. AIR COMMAND, 2. SUPER SUCCESS, 3. MINT

4. STAR OF MYSORE TROPHY (I,100m), rated 40 & above, 4-y.o. & over, 3:30-3:30; 1. Indermatt (10) Srinath 60, 2. Merlot (8) John 59, 3. Sakura (12) Akshay K 58, 4. Sadeek (2) M. Prabhakaran 57.5, 5. Set To Win (6) Zervan 56.5, 6. Fire Glow (7) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 7. Striking Grey (II) Darshan 54.5, 8. Sea Lagoon (5) Janardhan P 54.9, 9. Muridago (1) Arshad 53.5, 10. Top Striker (4) Irvan 52.5, 11. Deimus (3) Shiv K 51 and 12. Traviso (9) C. Umesh 51.

1. SAKURA, 2. SET TO WIN, 3. MERLOT

5. H.H. SRI JAYACHAMARAJA WADILYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 75 & above, 4:00-4:30; 1. Royal Sceptre (7) S. Shareef 64, 2. Kambala (6) John 61, 3. Ship Rock (4) Akshay K 60, 4. Psychic Force (2) Zervan 58, 5. Batman (8) Sai Kumar 56, 6. Oceanic Storm (1) Madhu Babu 55, 7. Grand Tenton (5) C. Umesh 50 and 8. Script Writer (3) Arshad 50.

7. PUNE PLATE (I,200m), rated 20 to 5-y.o. & over, 5:00-5:30; 1. Dancing Blues (7) Md. Asif Khan 62, 2. Space Ship (8) A.M. Alam 59.5, 3. Trevelyan (4) Sameer Khan 59, 4. Perfect Legacy (12) Sai Kiran 58, 5. Matteo (11) S. Shareef 57.5, 6. Eloika (6) Arshad 56, 7. In-trepid Warrior (5) J. Paswan 56, 8. Kazuri (10) Rajesh K 55, 9. Country's Power (1) Janardhan P 54.5, 10. Venu Vidi Vici (3) T.S. Jodha 53.5, 11. Humming Bird (9) Md. Mushraf 53 and 12. Engelberg (2) N. Jodha 55.

1. ALEXANDER BURNES, 2. SCHAFENBERG, 3. KIMERA

7. PUNE PLATE (I,200m), rated 20 to 5-y.o. & over, 5:00-5:30; 1. Dancing Blues (7) Md. Asif Khan 62, 2. Space Ship (8) A.M. Alam 59.5, 3. Trevelyan (4) Sameer Khan 59, 4. Perfect Legacy (12) Sai Kiran 58, 5. Matteo (11) S. Shareef 57.5, 6. Eloika (6) Arshad 56, 7. In-trepid Warrior (5) J. Paswan 56, 8. Kazuri (10) Rajesh K 55, 9. Country's Power (1) Janardhan P 54.5, 10. Venu Vidi Vici (3) T.S. Jodha 53.5, 11. Humming Bird (9) Md. Mushraf 53 and 12. Engelberg (2) N. Jodha 55.

1. ELOIKA, 2. TREVELYAN, 3. PERFECT LEGACY

Day's: **AIR COMMAND**
Double: **SAKURA – PSYCHIC FORCE**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Another draw for Anand

SINQUEFIELD CUP

SPORTS BUREAU
SAINT LOUIS

IN BRIEF



Katy Perry to perform in Mumbai in November

MUMBAI

Pop star Katy Perry on Wednesday announced on Twitter that she is all set to perform in the city on November 16 as part of the OnePlus Music Festival. The singer will perform at the DY Patil Stadium. PTI



Google plans shutting online job service 'Hire'

SAN FRANCISCO

Google will shut down its job application tracking system "Google Hire" that was launched just two years ago, the company said in a statement. People can keep using "Hire" for another year and the service will close on September 1, 2020. IANS



SpaceX test-launches Mars rocket prototype

BROWNSVILLE

SpaceX test-launched an early prototype of the company's Mars rocket on Tuesday. The prototype, dubbed Starhopper, rose about 500 feet off its launch pad and propelled itself some 650 feet onto an adjacent landing platform, completing a low-altitude test. REUTERS



New book gives account of Obama's years in office

NEW DELHI

A new book on Barack Obama will give an in-depth account of the former U.S. President's years in office, while examining his legacy, publishers Penguin India said in a statement on Wednesday. *Obama: The Call of History* is written by Peter Baker of *The New York Times*. PTI

Let there be light



Touch and go: Visitors looking at an interactive display at the Futurium in Berlin. The facility will open its doors on September 5. The site offers an exhibition space and a laboratory, where visitors can experiment with their own ideas. ■ SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Teen activist Greta Thunberg reaches New York

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NEW YORK

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg reached New York on Wednesday, after a 15-day journey crossing the Atlantic in a zero-carbon yacht.

"Land!! The lights of Long Island and New York City ahead," the 16-year-old tweeted, alongside a dark, blurry photo of lights in the distance.

Take a sip: can global matcha craze save Japan's tea industry?

Green tea flavour infused in ice creams and cupcakes to create a new market

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

FUJIJEDA

From matcha ice cream to cake and chocolate, producers of traditional Japanese green tea are capitalising on growing global interest in its flavour – even as demand for the drink declines at home.

At Shigehiko Suzuki's tea shop in central Japan, adorned with a traditional "noren" drape, the customers are flooding in but more to scoop up gelato or cake than to sip the bright-green tea.

In 1998, Suzuki's company Marushichi Seicha started making powdered matcha green tea – traditionally made using a bamboo whisk in a tiny room. The firm now exports 30 tonnes of green tea to the U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

"The demand for matcha is rapidly growing in the world... There's demand for ice cream, desserts and coffee," Mr. Suzuki said.

But in Japan, the consumption of green tea leaves for drinking dropped from 1,174 gm per household in 2001 to 844 gm in 2015, according to the latest government data – a trend Mr. Suzuki puts down to a more westernised diet.

Sensing the shift, Mr. Suzuki branched into matcha-



Farmer Yoshio Shoji, top, checking a net over a matcha tea field in Fujieda, Japan, and, below, matcha-flavoured products on display at a cafe. ■ AFP

flavoured ice cream nine years ago, opening a shop where customers can choose from seven levels of bitterness.

It became so popular, he opened two stores in Tokyo and one in Kyoto, matcha's traditional home.

Tea leaves were first

brought from China to Japan in the early ninth century and the tea was treated more as a medicine at that time.

Traditional ceremony

Matcha developed in 16th-century Kyoto when tea master Sen no Rikyu established the traditional tea ceremony known as "chanoyu".

"It is mainly the over-60s who drink tea. The younger people are, the more they drink coffee... Tea is no longer attractive to customers. Our priority is to boost its appeal," Mr. Suzuki said.

Some tea rooms are trying to modernise the traditional drink to pull in younger punters.

At Tokyo Saryo, a stark-white zen-style space in a quiet neighbourhood, "barista" Yuka Ihara brews Japanese tea in special glass cups.

"There's the cultural tea ceremony and practical botched tea. But something in-between, like a cafe where customers can enjoy tea in comfortable surroundings, didn't really exist before," Mr. Ihara said.

"It's important to come up with new ways to present and taste tea, as well as new recipes to let people rediscover the value of Japanese tea."



Irfan Pathan

J&K cricket association hopes to reach players through TV

Mentor Irfan Pathan wants the team to get back to practice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir's cricket team mentor Irfan Pathan says he is dealing with the most unique challenge of his long cricketing career as he tries to keep the State's preparations for the upcoming domestic season on track amid a communication clampdown.

The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has put out advertisements on local TV channels to get in touch with their players from the valley who have been incommunicado.

Desperate times call for desperate measures and with the JKCA unable to contact its players, including big names like Parvez Rasool, JKCA's CEO Ashiq Ali Bukhari and its administrator C.K. Prasad met on Tuesday to come up with a solution.

Communication in the valley has been restricted by the government after the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370, which gave the State special status. Jammu and Kashmir is now a Union Territory.

"The biggest challenge for us is that we are not able to contact players in Kashmir and its districts. We are in touch with the Jammu players," Mr. Pathan, who has played 29 Tests and 120 ODIs for India, said.

The pacer said the current situation in Kashmir has undone the massive gains made by the team in a fitness camp supervised by former Indian team trainer Sudarshan V.P. in June. The domestic season gets under way

anything like this before," said the 34-year-old.

Mr. Pathan was appointed as player-cum-mentor in March 2018. He feels sad that the team is back to the drawing board after a successful fitness camp in Kashmir.

Preparations hit

"Preparation has been big hit time. In the training camp held in June, we put a lot of emphasis on fitness as we felt that our biggest weakness was agility. The JK players have the lungs but they lack in agility so I arranged a qualified trainer like Sudarshan to work on the players.

"The players were supposed to peak by now but it is all back to zero in the current scenario. Even if the situation becomes normal, there is no time for training, it is just about playing matches," he said.

It has been a life-changing stint for Mr. Pathan and he said that he is glad that he has been able to do his bit for the players in the region.

"So many players were about to leave the game but when some of them heard of me taking charge, they found new hope. There is massive talent in the region and I hope I can help as many as I can, during my time there," he added.

Renovation halts rides at French museum

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

three million annual visitors will have to use an entrance around back, usually reserved for the vast public library that forms part of the inside-out complex.

While a hit with visitors, the escalator can get unbearably hot under the summer sun, whose rays have taken their toll on the corridors since the Pompidou opened in 1977.

The glass panels in particular, which offer pristine views of the heart of Paris, will be replaced to offer better insulation. The main entry underneath will also be enlarged and equipped with revolving doors.

of Nature and a decline greater than 30% was predicted by 2025 if the exploitation continued or expanded.

In case of the small-clawed otter and smooth-coated otter, which are traded for their fur in the international market, numbers are also declining due to habitat loss.

Mr. Mitra welcomed the inclusion of Tokay geckos in Appendix II of CITES. "Tokay geckos are sold in the open in some south Asian countries. Its inclusion in CITES Appendix II will bring some restriction on the sale," he said.

Spanish kids get 'werewolf syndrome'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MADRID

At least 17 children developed the so-called "werewolf syndrome" in a major medicine mix-up in Spain, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

They are suffering from the rare condition known as hypertrichosis that causes abnormal hair growth.

The alert was given in June after parents started noticing their children – some of them babies – were growing hair all over their body after taking what they thought was omeprazole, a drug that helps with gastric reflux.

After investigating, authorities discovered the drug they took actually contained minoxidil, a medication used for the treatment of hair loss.

The laboratory that sold the medicine has been closed.

BusinessLine

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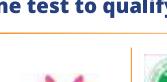
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